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JOLIE SHOWS OFF HER ELEGANT SIDE
A VERY LADYLIKE ROLE IN THE TOURIST {page 34}

FIGHT CARD
WILL GSP BATTLE HERE IN APRIL?
UFC IN T.O. {page 4}

TORONTO metro®
Wednesday, December 8, 2010
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

G20 a 'mass violation' for the history books

Provincial ombudsman says G20 law gave cops 'wartime power,' resulting in the 'most massive compromise of civil rights in Canadian history' Critical of government for using WW2 law meant to protect public buildings

Martial law ruled Toronto during the G20 summit after Ontario secretly gave police wartime powers, resulting in a mass violation of civil rights unprecedented in Canada, the provincial watchdog said yesterday.

The deliberate misinformation surrounding a revamped Second World War regulation led people to wrongly believe police had the power to demand identification and detain anyone coming within five metres of the G20 security fence.

The law, in fact, applied only to people entering the zone.

Still, it should have been dubbed the five-kilometre rule given police were stopping and searching people far from the fences in the downtown core, ombudsman Andre Marin said in releasing the results of his probe into the controversial law.

The more than 1,000 arrests and illegal detention of hundreds, or even thousands, of others during the June summit was a "mass violation of civil rights," said Marin. "For the citizens of Toronto, the days up to and including the weekend of the G20 will live in infamy as a time period where martial law set in the city of Toronto, leading to the most massive compromise of civil liberties in Canadian history."

Have your say online at torontoletters@metronews.ca

Premier Dalton McGuinty refused to comment yesterday, saying he hadn't read Marin's report, but Community Safety Minister Jim Bradley admitted the government should have done a better job of communicating the changes to the law.

Bradley refused to concede the Liberals had acted in secret and also declined to offer an apology for abusing civil rights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City hall. Sworn in

▶ Hockey commentator Don Cherry and Mayor Rob Ford give thumbs-up yesterday before Ford is presented with the chain of office, held by city clerk Ulli Watkiss. Cherry spoke at the ceremony, blasting "left-wing pinkos" and praising Ford. Story, page 3.

TANNIS TOOHEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cherry bombs dominate ceremony

World

WikiLeaks founder jailed

British judge denies bail for Julian Assange May be extradited to Sweden to face sex charges {page 10}

The best of U.S. winter resorts

Options abound, even if you don't ski or board {page 39}

Leafs face Sid and the Pens

You can't stop him, only hope to contain him {page 47}

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Council gets taste of Coach's Corner

Few prepared for three-minute blast at meeting Cherry had not met Ford until yesterday's event

"Put that in your pipe you left-wing kooks," hockey commentator Don Cherry told a shocked inaugural meeting of the city council, blasting "left-wing pinkos."

Cherry was Mayor Rob Ford's pick as a "special guest" for the pomp-filled ceremony. He turned up in a pink-and-white silk jacket and patterned tie that was eye-popping, even for the flamboyant TV star.

The co-host of Hockey Night In Canada's Coach's Corner put the chain of office around Ford's neck — something normally done by the city clerk — and then sat stoically, clapping as each of the 44 councillors received their ceremonial oaths of offices.

"I'm wearing pinko for all the pinkos out there that ride bicycles and everything, I thought I'd get it in," Cherry said to a sharp intake of breath, then laughs and some claps.

"What'd ya expect, Ron MacLean here, to come here?" he said, referring to his buttoned-down foil on Coach's Corner.

Ford followed Cherry's speech with his own that congratulated each of the councillors on being elected. He said he's going to focus on respect for taxpayers and good customer service, and told them: "The truth is, it feels great helping people."

As for Cherry himself, reporters seeking comment had to fight through a long line of people seeking his autograph and photo.

"Well, what can I tell you?" he said of those criticizing his speech. "Don't invite me. You don't invite a pit bull. If you want a pit bull, you get a pit bull."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TANNIS TOOHEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Mayor Rob Ford delivers his inaugural address to council yesterday during the swearing-in ceremony in city hall council chambers.

Reactions

A nonchalant Rob Ford said he didn't know Don Cherry, pictured, was going to use his airtime to attack political opponents.

- **Paula Fletcher (Ward 30, Toronto Danforth):** "Oh man, it was just embarrassing for the largest city in the country — it just made me mad."
- **Joe Mihevc (Ward 21, St. Paul's):** "We all love Don Cherry and his comments and forcefulness in hockey games, but this is council."
- **Denzil Minnan-Wong (Ward 34, Don Valley East):** "You take it for what it is and you shrug it off ... It's certainly not a reflection of council at all, it's a reflection of a man who's larger than life."

1 news

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VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ UFC president Dana White, left, and UFC director of Canadian operations Tom Wright at a news conference at the Air Canada Centre.

UFC planning 'massive' April debut in Toronto

Within hours of announcement, fighters had already contacted UFC matchmaker about getting on the card

Between the Jays, Rays and Tigers, there will be cage fighters come April at the Rogers Centre.

And a record crowd for mixed martial arts in North America.

The UFC plans a historic splashdown in Ontario, skipping Toronto's Air Canada Centre for something a little roomier. UFC 131 is set for the Rogers Centre on April 30 with expectations of a world-record gate (ticket sales) for MMA.

"People have been dying for this thing in Toronto and now we're finally coming," UFC president Dana White said. "We expect it to be massive."

Details to come

- White and Wright offered no details on the Toronto card or tickets, other than to say stay tuned.
- There will be a companion Fan Expo April 29-30 at the Direct Energy Centre.

The Toronto event comes a little more than 10 years and some 99 major shows since White and the Fertitta brothers bought the ailing UFC for $2 million US in January 2001. The Toronto gate will likely be more than triple that purchase price.

"Throughout my career, over the last 10 years, there's some memorable events," White said. "I have the feeling that this one will be the most memorable event of my career."

White made the announcement at a news conference yesterday at the Air Canada Centre — more than three weeks before the provincial government's Jan. 1 date to begin accepting applications from MMA promoters.

"I can assure you that our application will be on that table (Jan. 1) and I like our chances to be accepted," said Tom Wright, the UFC's director of Canadian operations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online gallery aims to spread the LOVE

From the early days of elementary through to high school, Jamie O'Connor was subjected to incessant bullying that ate away at her self-esteem.

She said she was in Grade 1 or 2 when the torment first began, mostly in the form of verbal name-calling.

"I was short, I had buck teeth, I was an overachiever, the quote-unquote 'teacher's pet,' so those are all things that people target, especially in elementary school," recalled O'Connor, now 25, who works as a legal assistant in a downtown Toronto law office.

The worst incident she could remember occurred at the end of Grade 9 when she broke up with her boyfriend. His brother decided to send a petition around the school asking people who didn't like O'Connor to sign it and later gave her the document. Several years ago, he apologized.

After teaming up with Leave Out Violence, or LOVE, an organization that helps youth affected by violence, O'Connor was able to receive the support she needed while also discovering an outlet to express herself.

One component of her involvement with LOVE was participating in a photojournalism program, where she could capture and illustrate her thoughts and feelings both from behind the lens and in writing.

O'Connor admits she initially wasn't thrilled at the prospect of being thrust into a group of people she didn't know while attending the photojournalism program at Ryerson University. That changed after the facilitator who was leading a discussion about a news article made a point of asking O'Connor for her feedback.

"I could tell that she genuinely wanted to hear what I had to say and it was such a foreign idea that somebody actually cared about my opinion or what my thoughts were," she said.

LOVE is shining the spotlight on images captured by some of its youth participants. Some 50 photos are featured in an online gallery aimed at helping raise awareness about the issue of youth violence.

Each time a photo is viewed, Motorola's Raise Your Voice philanthropy program will make a donation to LOVE, with sights set on reaching the goal of $10,000.

The online gallery's theme is hope and features a wide range of interpretations of the concept, from more literal imagery featuring hearts and words like "love" and "dream" to serene shots of nature and the environment.

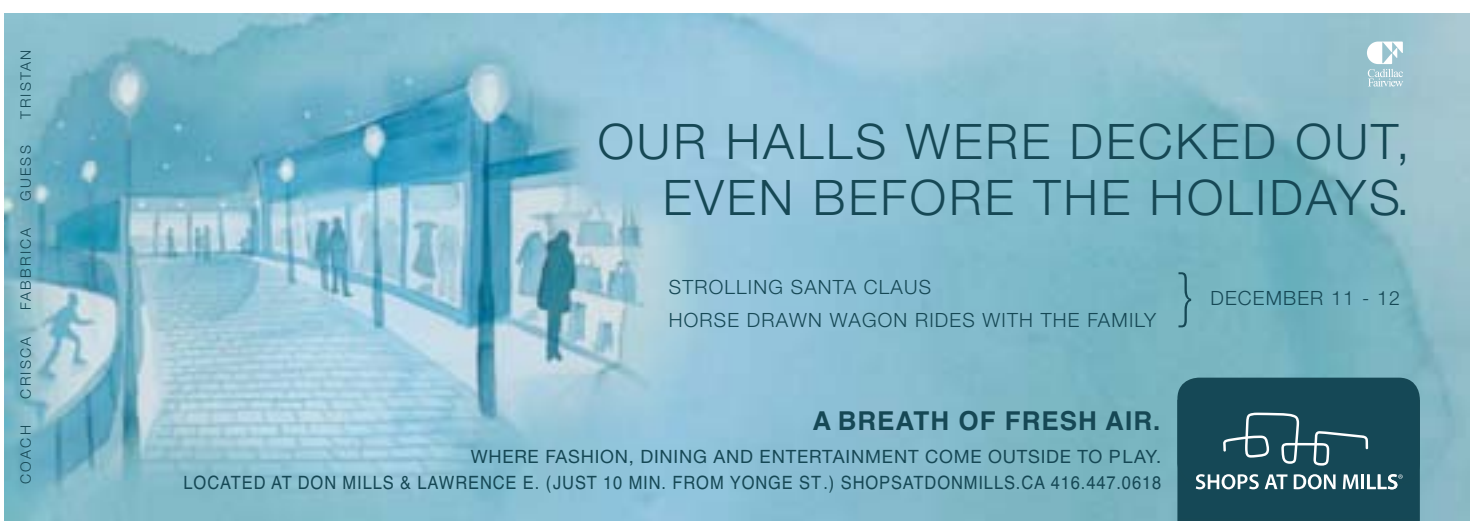
THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Jamie O'Connor, who endured bullying at school, participates in the grassroots movement LOVE (Leave Out Violence), which teaches youth to document violence in their lives through photography and other media, and create solutions to end violence.

LOVE

- In addition to its media arts program, LOVE also offers leadership training. Youth leaders help educate others about violence and violence prevention.
- LOVE also helps establish violence prevention committees in priority communities, for elementary, middle and high schools.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Was transit talk derailed with the premier?

Mayor emerged 25 minutes into what was supposed to be an hour-long chat without a pledge for subway funds

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, left, meets Toronto Mayor elect Rob Ford yesterday.

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford left the first official meeting with Premier Dalton McGuinty without any pledge to fund his subway-based transit plan.

Ford suggested to reporters he now believes he only needs the support of his hand-picked Toronto Transit Commission board to scrap the city's rail-based Transit City plan, and not a vote from full council.

Ford told reporters he thanked McGuinty for agreeing to pay the city about $52 million to cover half of Toronto's costs for the Ontario Works welfare program.

He also lauded the premier for repeating that the province is ready to stop collecting Toronto's $60 vehicle registration tax Jan. 1, should Ford get it scrapped at next week's council meeting.

But it appears there was little or no detailed discussion about the biggest friction point between the two governments: the future of Transit City and Ford's insistence that billions of dollars McGuinty has pledged to build it be diverted to Ford's transit plan.

After Ford declared Transit City "over," the province suggested it would consider amending the provincially funded transit expansion if city council asked for change.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vote. torontoletters@metronews.ca or Twitter: @metrotoronto

Who is your newsmaker of the year?

Was 2010 the year of **Hurricane Hazel** or does the gravy train stop with **Rob Ford?**

Maybe it was **Miller** time, or did **Dalton** dominate the headlines? Let us know who your Toronto newsmaker of the year is. Who do you think had the most profound impact on the city in 2010. Did hip-hop megastar **Drake** do it for you, or did **Rachel McAdams** leave you starstruck? Were you inspired by Leafs GM **Brian Burke** during a difficult year on and off the ice, or is your top Toronto newsmaker someone else? It's time for you to decide. Tell us who rocked your 2010 and why. Voting ends Dec. 17.

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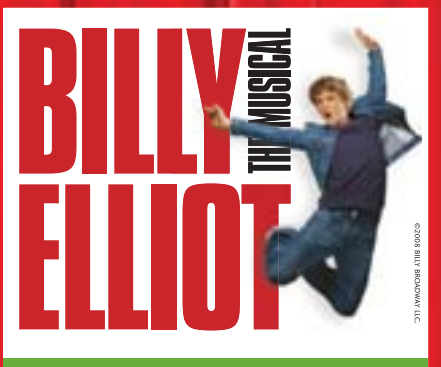

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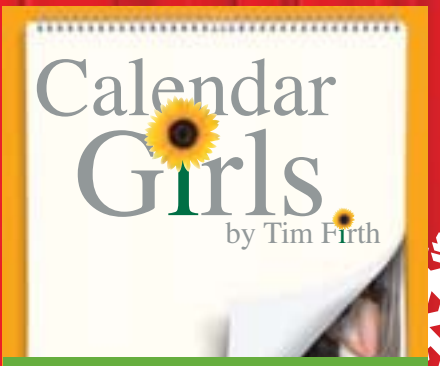

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Mississauga recount confirms win

The Mississauga recount for Ward 1 has confirmed that Jim Tovey defeated incumbent councillor Carmen Corbasson, so there will be no dramatic shift of power away from Mayor Hazel McCallion.

The recount was called after a motion was put forward by outgoing councillor Carolyn Parrish at the last meeting of the previous council. Corbasson had lost by 129 votes to Tovey. The recount showed Tovey, who had been supported by McCallion during the election, did indeed win. The exact final number was still being tabulated, but city officials said if there was a discrepancy it was no more than one or two votes.

Tovey's win along with that of Ron Starr, who defeated Parrish and was also supported by the mayor, marked a shift in support toward the mayor on key issues. Corbasson was one of the so-called group of seven councillors that had opposed McCallion throughout the previous term on certain issues, eventually bringing about the ongoing judicial inquiry into the mayor's alleged conflict of interest in a land deal led by her son's company.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Atheists eye new transit offensive

Campaign upping its game to show religion isn't its only target

The atheist campaign on Toronto buses last year hit enough nerves to inspire a new campaign from the people behind it, this time taking on Allah, Christ, Bigfoot, homeopathy and psychics.

The Extraordinary Claims campaign, which the Centre for Inquiry is hoping to roll out early next year, expands from its challenge of religion to just about anything "not supported by critical and scientific evidence," said centre executive director Justin Trottier.

"The Atheist Bus Campaign was a tremendous success," he told the Toronto Star yesterday. By that, he means the skeptics' and humanists' point of view espoused by the centre got to claim "more of an influence and become part of a conversation."

While the overall Extraordinary Claims campaign ranges across 60 fields, from fairies and the Easter bunny to alternative medicine, the bus poster campaign will target just seven, with Allah and Christ as the "bookends."

$6K

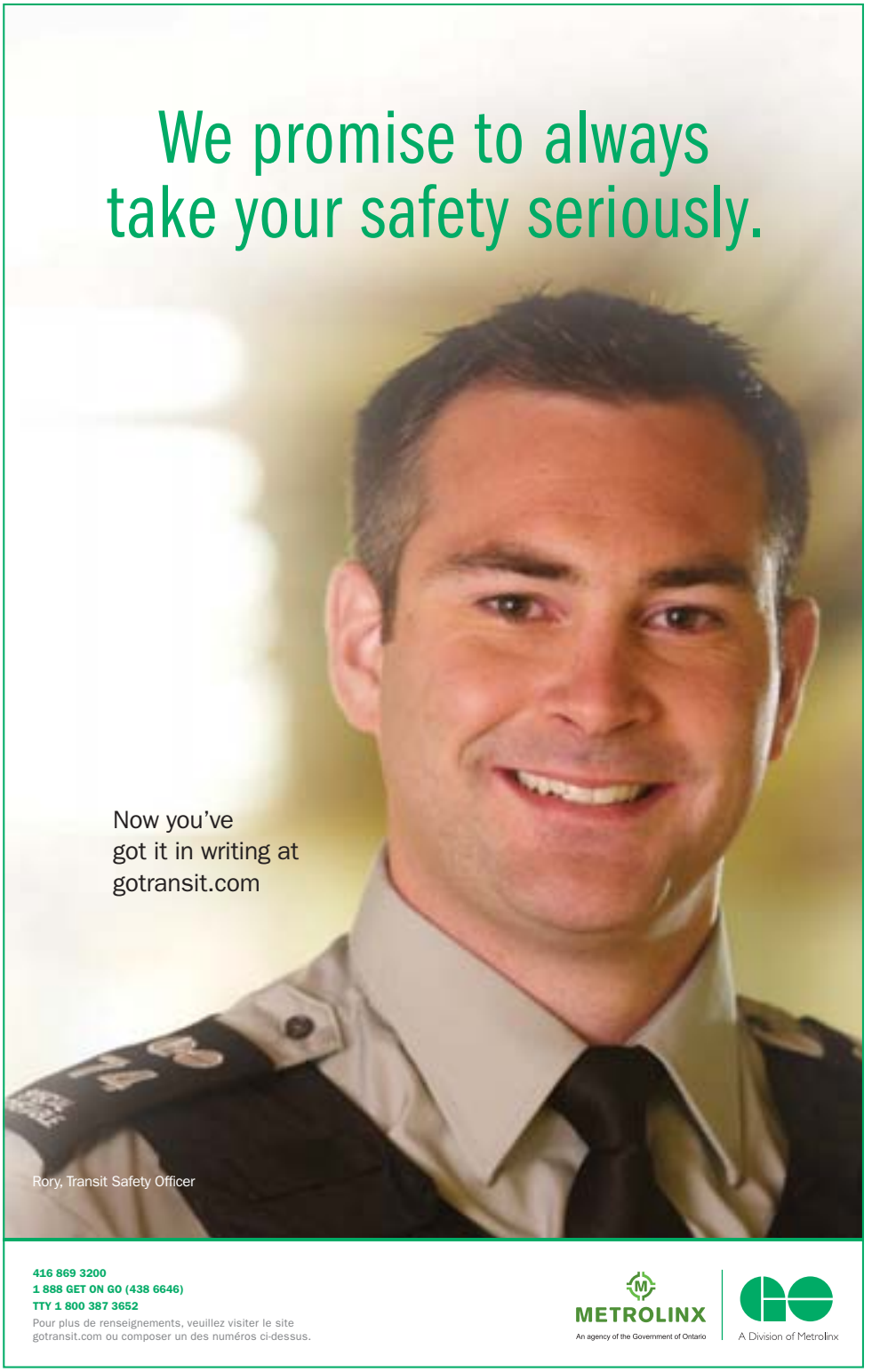
The Centre for Inquiry is raising funds for the campaign, which will cost about $6,000 in Toronto alone before expanding across Canada.

"We're just sort of starting negotiations with Pattison, the agency that markets the ad space, and the TTC," said Trottier.

"We are equally concerned with irrational and unscientific homeopathic practice and parents who subject their children to that, as we are about religious claims that can spark violence."

He's proud to note this campaign is Canadian, while the bus campaign, with its slogan "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life," had been a British import.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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Tiffany. Award

▶ Geoff Cape, centre, is the recipient of the 2010 Tiffany Mark Award for philanthropy presented at a private celebration at the Tiffany & Co. flagship store on Bloor Street West last night. He is pictured with Tiffany CEO Michael Kowalski and vice-president Andrea Hopson.

TOM SANDLER/FOR METRO

Making his mark

Molester jailed 12 years

Treatment should include drugs to lower Stratton's libido: Justice

He preyed on the most vulnerable, using young girls to satisfy his sexual urges, sometimes as they slept, other times using force, threats or rewards.

To curb the sex drive that led to his "shocking" and "horrifying" crimes, convicted child molester Michael Ross Stratton should undergo chemical castration, Justice Paul Bellefontaine said in Oshawa court yesterday.

Labelling the former Whitby resident a long-term offender, Bellefontaine sentenced him to 12 years in jail followed by 10 years of close supervision to protect the community.

But with credit for time served, Stratton, 43, faces only three more years in penitentiary. With eligibility for day parole in six months and full parole in 12 months, he could be out next year.

Stratton pleaded guilty last year to 13 counts of assault, sexual assault and child pornography involving nine victims, aged nine to 15, over a 14-year period.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Mr. Stratton admitted sexual attraction to young girls is an ingrained lifelong sexual preference that will take substantial treatment to be controlled."
JUSTICE PAUL BELLEFONTAINE

In court

- **Court heard,** during earlier testimony, that Stratton befriended girls and took them to McDonald's and Canada's Wonderland, earning a reputation for being "cool" because he gave them alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana.
- **He videotaped** his sexual abuse of the children through oral sex, fondling and, in some cases, sexual intercourse, court heard.

Weather. Snow day

▶ Tyler Edwards shovels a snow drift from the roof of his home during a winter storm that dumped more than 80 centimetres of snow in London, Ont., yesterday.

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snowstorm missed us

Environment Canada says London, Ont., is one of several communities that could see more than 100 centimetres on the ground before the snow stops today, prompting London Mayor Joe Fontana to talk of declaring an emergency. Officials say ambulances also got stuck in the snow already dumped.

City faces $64M hit if vehicle tax is dumped

10 **No matter what termination date is picked, refunding the second year of the tax for those who renewed for two years would cost $10 million. If the tax is scrapped Jan. 1, that would be an extra $4 million in refunds.**

Getting rid of the unpopular vehicle registration tax Jan. 1 as Mayor Rob Ford wants would cost Toronto $64 million, a report says.

The city would lose $48 million in revenue for 2011, plus refunds would cost $14 million and administrative costs to end the tax another $2 million for a total of $64 million.

However, if the cancellation date were Sept. 1, 2011, the loss to the city would be only $28 million. That's because the city would rake in $32 million from the tax over the first eight months of next year and refunds would drop by $4 million.

The numbers are included in a staff report to council's executive committee, chaired by Ford, which meets tomorrow.

Ford wants council to agree to formally axe the tax Dec. 16.

The province collects the vehicle tax for the city.

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ELIZABETH EDWARDS

U.S. politco's wife dies

Elizabeth Edwards, who closely advised her husband John in two bids for the presidency and advocated for health care even as her marriage publicly crumbled, died yesterday after a six-year struggle with cancer. She was 61.

She died at her North Carolina home surrounded by her three children, siblings, friends and her estranged husband, John, the family said.

She was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, in the final days of her husband's vice-presidential campaign.

"Today we have lost the comfort of Elizabeth's presence but she remains the heart of this family," the family said in a statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Assange jailed, facing extradition

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A supporter of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange holds up a placard outside a courthouse in London, where Assange appeared before a judge.

▶ WikiLeaks founder's arrest 'sounds like good news to me': U.S. defence secretary ▶ Information flow won't be affected: Spokesman

WIKI LEAKS

A British judge sent Julian Assange to jail yesterday, denying bail to the WikiLeaks founder after he vowed to fight efforts to be extradited to Sweden in a sex-crimes investigation.

Assange turned himself in to Scotland Yard yesterday morning, and was sent to the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court in the early afternoon. He showed no reaction as Judge Howard Riddle denied him bail and sent him to jail until his next extradition hearing on Dec. 14.

Riddle asked the 39-year-old Australian whether he understood that he could agree to be extradited to Sweden. Assange, dressed in a navy blue suit, cleared his throat and said, "I understand that and I do not consent."

The judge said he had grounds to believe that the former computer hacker — a self-described homeless refugee — might not show up to his next hearing if he were granted bail.

Arguments during the hour-long hearing detailed the sex accusations against Assange, all of which he has denied.

Lawyer Gemma Lindfield, acting on behalf of the Swedish authorities, outlined one allegation of rape, two allegations of molestation and one of unlawful coercion stemming from Assange's separate sexual encounters in August with two women in Sweden.

Assange's lawyers have claimed the accusations stem from a "dispute over consensual but unprotected sex" and say the women only made the claims after finding out about each other's relationships with Assange. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Money troubles

While its founder was in court, WikiLeaks came under increasing financial pressure yesterday.

- **Collecting individual donations** — the mainstay of its operations — became more difficult after credit card companies said they would refuse to process donations to the site.

Julian vs. Goliath

Beginning in July, WikiLeaks angered the U.S. government by releasing tens of thousands of secret U.S. military documents on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Last week, it began a rolling release of what WikiLeaks says are a quarter-million cables from U.S. diplomatic posts around the world.

The U.S. government has launched a criminal investigation, saying the group has jeopardized U.S. national security and worldwide diplomacy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaks chilling relations: U.S.

SAMUEL KUBANI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates

Foreign powers are pulling back from their dealings with the U.S. government since hundreds of classified diplomatic cables wound up on the Internet, State and Defence department officials said yesterday.

The document dump by WikiLeaks included detailed and blunt exchanges between foreign and U.S. officials on such politically sensitive matters as a top-secret U.S. bombing campaign in Yemen.

The Obama administration has decried the release of the classified documents as criminal, and refuted assertions by anti-war WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange that he should enjoy the same free-speech protections given to media organizations.

Last week, Defence Secretary Robert Gates predicted that any damage would be fairly modest and that other countries were unlikely to cut ties with the U.S. because of the security infraction.

"The fact is governments deal with the United States because it's in their interest, not because they like us, not because they trust us and not because they think we can keep secrets," Gates said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Key Air India proposals rejected by feds

- Liberals condemn Harper government response
- NDP public safety critic Don Davies says plan has gaps

The federal government has responded to an inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing with plans to streamline terrorism trials, make the witness protection program work better, and improve the flow of information about extremist financing.

But the government's "action plan" — which includes few specifics — rejects several key inquiry recommendations, including extensive new powers for the national security adviser to supervise and co-ordinate intelligence activities.

It is also silent on the suggestion by former Supreme Court justice John Major, who led the inquiry, that an arm's-length body be created to recommend an appropriate payment to families of the disaster victims.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Vic Toews

The Air India inquiry catalogued a litany of federal failures before and after the terrorist attack that killed 329 people, most of them Canadians.

Authorities believe Sikh extremists fighting for an independent homeland planted explosives on the aircraft, which blew up over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Ireland.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said the government's planned anti-terror measures call for closer co-operation between Fintrac, the agency that watches for suspicious financial dealings, and intelligence and police agencies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa police detain three after teen shot and killed

Ottawa police say three men are in custody in connection with the shooting death of a 16-year-old who was dumped from a car and left to die on a downtown street.

Residents of the Booth Street neighbourhood reported hearing gunshots Monday when the car pulled up and the young male victim was shoved out.

The car then sped away, but a witness reportedly got a licence plate number.

The victim has been identified as Yazden Ghiasvand Ghiasi of Ottawa.

An autopsy conducted yesterday determined that the cause of death was a gunshot wound.

Police say charges are pending and the investigation continues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Iran's chief negotiator, Saed Jalili.

GENEVA TALKS

IRAN, WORLD POWERS TO MEET AGAIN

Iran and six world powers concluded talks yesterday with an agreement to reconvene early next year, indicating Tehran may be willing to address concerns about its nuclear program. But Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned that unless they lift UN sanctions, the six face failure in the next round.

Diplomats from delegations at the table with Iran said Tehran made no commitments to talking about UN Security Council demands that Tehran freeze uranium enrichment — which has both civilian and military uses. Iran's chief negotiator, Saed Jalili, also sought to dampen expectations. "I am telling you clearly and openly that halting uranium enrichment will not be discussed at the Istanbul meeting," he told reporters.

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Education? Go to the top of the class, Canada

We're no slouch at reading, math and science

A new report ranks Canada's education system among the world's best.

The largest international assessment of reading, math and science in developed economies highlights Canada as a place where "students tend to perform well regardless of their own background or the school they attend."

The study from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, released yesterday, places Canada in the top 10 for all three categories, with scores that come in above average.

The highest Canadian score was in reading, where students ranked sixth. Shanghai, China, led the category, followed by Korea and Finland.

"The world is not standing still around us and I don't think we can afford to be complacent."
ANDREW PARKIN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EDUCATION MINISTERS, CANADA

When it came to science, Canada placed eighth.

Meanwhile, Canada placed 10th in math — its weakest area — but the country still had above average scores.

Ontario was the only province where results were statistically higher than the national average for reading performance, according to an analysis by the Council of Education Ministers, Canada.

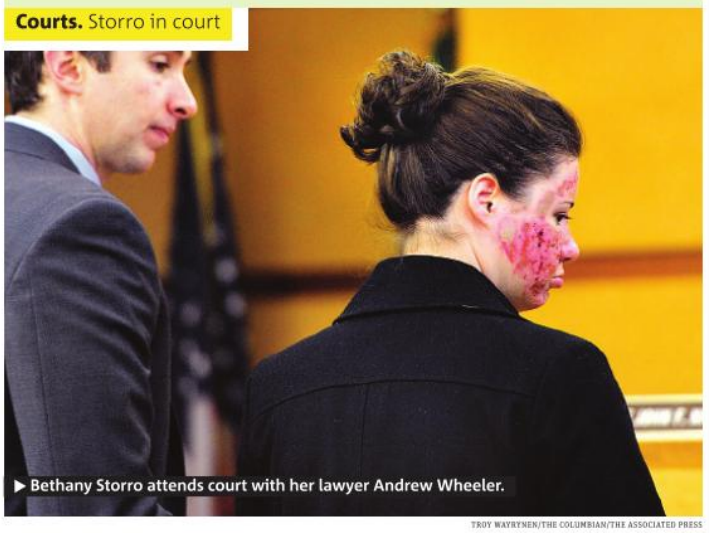
The report also found Canadian 15-year olds on average performed more than one school year ahead in math than their U.S. counterparts.

The report also looked at the gap between boys and girls in reading skills.

Girls outperformed boys in every country, with an average score gap equivalent to one year of schooling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Courts. Storro in court



▶ Bethany Storro attends court with her lawyer Andrew Wheeler.

TROY WAYRYNEN/THE COLUMBIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Acid hoax trial postponed

A woman who media reports say faked an acid attack on herself appeared in a Vancouver, Wash., courtroom yesterday. Reports say Bethany Storro, 28, told police she splashed acid on herself. She is charged with theft by deception for donations she received. A trial date was postponed until March.

Who's to blame?

- Many Haitians have long suspected that the United Nations Nepalese base was the source of the disease.
- U.S. investigators confirmed in October that the strain of cholera bacteria matched one from South Asia, a region that includes Nepal.
- Other scientists and experts, however, say its possible ocean currents or other climate-related events carried the bacteria to Haiti.

Top scientist hints of cholera coverup

A contingent of United Nations peacekeepers is the likely source of a cholera outbreak in Haiti that has killed at least 2,000 people, says a French scientist.

Epidemiologist Renaud Piarroux says the cholera originated in a tributary of Haiti's Artibonite river, next to a UN base outside the town of Mirebalais.

"No other hypothesis could be found to explain the outbreak of a cholera epidemic in this village," he wrote in a report.

The report calls for improved medical surveillance and sanitation.

Piarroux also hinted strongly at a coverup.

"It cannot be ruled out that steps have been taken to remove the suspected fecal matter and to erase the traces of an epidemic of cholera among the soldiers," he wrote.

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Obama's tax cuts under fire

Since 2008 has said breaks would continue, but only for middle-class

His tax cut compromise under Democratic attack, U.S. President Barack Obama set a news conference yesterday to sell the plan worked out in secret talks with Republicans over several days.

Several officials said the cost of the package could add $900 billion US or more to the deficit over two years by extending tax cuts from the Bush era that are due to expire at year's end, renewing jobless benefits through the end of 2011 and granting a one-year cut in Social Security taxes.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, normally one of Obama's staunchest allies, made plain her unhappiness in a statement that contained no commitment to help pass the plan.

"We will continue discussions with the president and our caucus in the days ahead," said the statement, issued 18 hours after the announcement.

The administration mounted a full-scale defence of the agreement, saying it would pump billions into the economy at a time it is recovering from the worst recession in eight decades and unemployment stands at 9.8 per cent.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, a Democrat-turned-independent, urged support for the plan.

"This tentative agreement is an example of Washington working across party lines to confront the challenges facing our nation," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Barack Obama

Ford auto sales climbing back up

20% Light truck sales for Canada are up about 20 per cent through the end of November.

In the tug of war between car and truck sales, Ford Canada chief executive David Mondragon is betting on cars.

The head of the U.S. automaker's Canadian operations said Ford's car business is up 20 per cent for the year, about the same rate as its truck sales.

"We feel good about our growth, but again we're not growing just with trucks," Mondragon said in an interview.

"We're growing with a balanced approach with cars, CUVs and trucks, and that speaks volumes in terms of our growth potential in the future."

The push for cars includes a new version of Ford's popular Explorer that will be based on a car platform. Mondragon said it will get 30 per cent better fuel economy than the old Explorer.

Ford car sales to the end of November totalled 57,197, while truck sales were 191,300. That compared with 47,718 cars sold in the first 11 months of 2009 and 159,568 trucks.

The increase in Ford car sales has come as the broader industry has seen car sales dip in Canada compared with 2009. Car sales for the first 11 months of the year are down nearly five per cent compared with a year ago.

A report by the Conference Board of Canada yesterday said a restructuring of the auto industry during the economic downturn was paying off with a return to profitability.

Mondragon predicted auto sales in Canada will grow about two per cent in 2011 after a strong 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

Cheney faces bribes case

NIGERIA. Nigeria's anti-corruption agency has filed a 16-count indictment against former U.S. vice-president Dick Cheney, above, and the Halliburton firm.

Charges involve bribes paid to Nigerian officials over a liquefied natural gas plant, a spokesperson said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Screw tightens on Ireland

DUBLIN. Ireland must endure the toughest cuts and tax hikes in its history as an unavoidable price for saving the nation from bankruptcy, Finance Minister Brian Lenihan told lawmakers as they prepared to vote on a brutal 2011 budget.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cops: No crime in rail deaths

EDMONTON. Police have ruled that the deaths of two 19-year-olds who were struck by a light-rail transit train were not criminal.

Witnesses had reported the young man and his girlfriend had been fighting and he pinned her to the tracks as the train roared over them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swarming girls stay in custody

PETERBOROUGH. Two teenage girls will spend Christmas in custody for their part in a swarming incident.

A 14-year-old boy was assaulted and robbed of his baseball cap in a mall parking lot.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Why? Firebomber has judge guessing

Retired federal bureaucrat jailed 3½ years for Ottawa bank attack ◐ Court hears of troubled family past

A retired federal bureaucrat has been sentenced to three and a half years in prison for firebombing an Ottawa bank.

Roger Clement targeted the RBC branch last May to protest the bank's connections to the Alberta oilsands and the 2010 Olympics.

Court had heard that the 58-year-old had a long history of activism and a troubled family past.

But Judge Celynne Dorval said nothing in his history, or his motives, shed enough light on why he committed the crime.

Clement told his sentencing hearing he regretted the consequences of his actions and intends to use his time more wisely once he's free.

"This is not an expression of remorse," Dorval said yesterday.

The Crown had argued for a six-year sentence to send a message that such crimes aren't tolerated by society, while the defence said a lesser sentence would serve the same goal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The firebombed downtown Ottawa RBC branch.

Background

- The fire-bombing happened just before the G8 and G20 summits in Huntsville and Toronto, sparking fears it was the start of more violence to come.
- Police found Clement was the one who posted a video of the fire online, along with a manifesto that called on others to take similar actions.
- The attack cost the bank $1.6 million and closed the branch for months.
- Clement's father committed suicide in 1961. Clement spent the early 1990s caring for his mother after she had a brain hemorrhage. He also cared for a sister with breast cancer.

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Climate change will sideswipe Ottawa: Auditor

"I am troubled that the government is not ready to respond to a major (oil) spill."
SCOTT VAUGHAN, FEDERAL COMMISSIONER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Ottawa's environmental auditor says the federal government does not have the right information to deal with climate change and environmental protection.

Scott Vaughan, commissioner of the environment, says the government is failing to take charge of environmental issues.

It also has no plan to deal with the impacts of climate change, despite 18 years of promises.

Vaughan says climate change is already taking its toll, in the form of severe weather in Atlantic Canada, drought in the Prairies, the loss of boreal forests to pests and fire, and the thawing of the permafrost in the North.

Vaughan's report also says Ottawa is unprepared to respond to major oil spills, even though it receives reports of an average of one spill a day.

Vaughan also issues a warning about the government's monitoring of fresh water, saying in many cases water quality is not monitored, and Ottawa often has no idea who is supposed to be keeping tabs on it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Melting glaciers may spark deadly floods

Lives and livelihoods in South Asia at 'high risk,' UN warns

The lives and livelihoods of people in South Asia are at "high risk" as global warming melts glaciers in the Himalayas.

The melting could send floods crashing down from overloaded mountain lakes and deprive farmers of steady water sources.

The stark warning comes from the United Nations and international experts.

Worldwide, "since the beginning of the 1980s, the rate of ice loss has increased substantially in many regions, concurrent with an increase in global mean air temperatures," the UN Environment Program says.

Glaciers in southern South America and Alaska have been losing mass faster and for longer than glaciers elsewhere, it says.

The UN spoke out at climate talks in Cancun, Mexico.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDUARDO VERDUGO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Climate of fear: Riot police stand at the ready as a climate change demonstration goes on in Cancun, Mexico, yesterday.

Alberta minister defends oilsands policies

Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner says Alberta's environmental policies are influential around the world.

Renner was in Cancun, Mexico, for global talks on climate change.

He was also set to meet influential officials from the European parliament.

Europe has criticized the impact of Alberta's oilsands, but Renner said a delegation from the European parliament was favourably impressed when it toured northern Alberta earlier this year.

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QUEBEC

Companies plead guilty

Two companies linked to Quebec's construction scandals have pleaded guilty to tax evasion.

The Canada Revenue Agency had filed charges against two companies for which Tony Accurso is listed as an administrator: Constructions Louisbourg Ltd. and Simard-Beaudry Construction Inc.

Both firms avoided trial yesterday by pleading guilty in a Laval, Que., courtroom.

They admitted to improperly claiming $19 million in business expenses between 2003 and 2008, as a result failing to pay $4 million in taxes.

Accurso, a major player in the Quebec industry, has been at the epicentre of constructions scandals now rocking the province.

The controversies began with reports last year that Montreal political figures were being hosted on Accurso's private yacht.

One of his companies was also involved in a $355-million water-metre contract eventually cancelled by the city.

He is not personally charged with anything.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Operative denies asking to set up party

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Gilles Prud'homme walks past West Block construction as he leaves Parliament Hill after appearing as witness at the Commons Government Operations committee yesterday.

Testifies at committee looking into Parliament Hill renovation

A longtime Conservative operative denied he asked a contractor to throw a party fundraiser as payback for getting work on Parliament Hill.

Gilles Prud'Homme dismissed as a fabrication the whole cash-for-contracts claim surrounding renovation work on the historic West Block.

Contractor Paul Sauve has said he paid Tory-connected businessman Gilles Varin $140,000 to help him win a $9-million renovation contract with Public Works in 2008.

Sauve says he was later directed by Varin and Prud'Homme to set up a fundraiser for a Montreal-area Conservative riding association that was attended by the public works minister.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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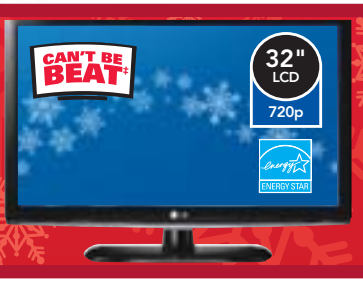

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Confucius peace award counters Nobel choice

China has succeeded in persuading 18 other countries to boycott Nobel Prize ceremony including longtime allies

AFP/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Liu Xiaobo

Only three weeks after the idea was first publicly floated, China has cobbled together its own peace prize and plans to award it tomorrow — the day before the Nobel Committee honours an imprisoned Chinese dissident in a move that has enraged Beijing.

Since Liu Xiaobo's selection, China has vilified the 54-year-old democracy advocate, called the choice an effort by the West to contain its rise, disparaged his supporters as "clowns," and launched a campaign to persuade countries not to attend Friday's ceremony in Oslo. The government is also preventing Liu — who is serving an 11-year sentence for co-authoring a bold appeal for political reforms in the Communist country — and his family members from attending.

Amid the flurry of action came a commentary published on Nov. 17 in a Communist Party-approved tabloid that suggested China create its own award — the "Confucius Peace Prize" — to counter the choice of Liu.

Three weeks later, The Associated Press has learned, China is doing just that. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pampered. Princess

Caesar, a dog belonging to shoe designer Patrick Cox, has his claws painted during a publicity event to launch a pet spa at Harrods department store, in Knightsbridge, west London yesterday.

WIREIMAGE

Sit pretty has a new meaning

Brantford tombstones vandalized

Police say more than 50 tombstones have been toppled at a cemetery in Brantford, Ont., over the last few days.

Investigators say 56 monuments were knocked over between last Friday and Monday, causing damage estimated at over $5,000.

Three more tombstones were knocked over Monday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Catholic education leader concealed allegations

Scan code for news

Child porn charges for Ont. man

A man from Peterborough, Ont., has been charged after police allege they found child pornography on a computer.

Peterborough police say the material was discovered on a computer seized from a rooming house last August.

Christopher James Renwick, 35, was arrested Monday and charged with possession of child pornography. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cancer victim's image urged for box warnings

Alberta anti-tobacco activist died of lung and brain cancer in 2003 Near the end of her life, she travelled Canada teaching about dangers of smoking

Two Alberta health groups want a grim photo of an Edmonton woman in the final stages of lung cancer used in anti-smoking ads across the country.

Barb Tarbox, who died when she was 42, became an anti-tobacco activist a decade ago after she learned she had the disease.

The health groups are pressing the Harper government to go ahead with new Health Canada warnings which stalled in September.

The U.S. government is recommending the photo of Tarbox be used in proposed graphic health warnings about cigarettes south of the border.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Barb Tarbox

Pat Tarbox says it is disheartening that his wife's likeness may not see the light of day in Canada but could end up sending a message to millions of Americans.

10 The current health warnings on cigarette packages are 10 years old.

Canada was the first country to put graphic pictures on cigarette packages, but the Canadian Cancer Society says the country now lags behind several others in how big those images are supposed to be.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal. Blizzard

▶ Emergency workers survey the scene where a truck overturned during a winter storm on Highway 40, near Montreal yesterday.

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winter blunderland for Environment Canada

Environment Canada's predictions for the year's first snowstorm appear to have been off, in Quebec, by roughly 1,000 per cent. The office warned Montrealers Monday that they should expect two to four centimetres of snow. But as of yesterday, 25 centimetres had blanketed the city, and the storm was still going strong.

Tobacco firm to pay

$5M Copenhagen and Skoal manufacturer U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co. will pay $5 million to the family of Bobby Hill of Canton, N.C.

A smokeless tobacco company has agreed to pay the family of a man who died of mouth cancer in what the family's attorney called the first wrongful death settlement from chewing tobacco. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Kabuki star apologizes for drunken brawl

Suffers fractured cheek bone, chipped teeth and bruises At least three main sponsors pull TV ads

A star of traditional Japanese theatre who called in sick, then went out drinking and ended up brawling in a bar apologized for the scandal that has embarrassed the rarefied world of Kabuki.

Ebizo Ichikawa, 33, known as the "prince" of Kabuki, gave a televised news conference yesterday hours after leaving a Tokyo hospital where he was treated for the facial injury sustained in the fracas that has riveted the nation for almost two weeks.

Kabuki is a stylized all-male theatre that combines music, dance and acting to tell stories about samurai vendettas, love suicides and everyday city-life.

The audience tends to be elderly, but young performers like Ichikawa have revived interest in Kabuki in recent years by tackling TV shows and other works outside their genre.

KOJI SASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Kabuki star Ebizo Ichikawa

Ichikawa has been suspended indefinitely from performing Kabuki by organizer Shochiku Co., following the incident at a celebrity bar in a ritzy Tokyo neighbourhood on Nov. 25.

"I'm very sorry for causing tremendous trouble and concerns. I deeply regret what I did," Ichikawa told reporters, wearing a dark suit and a tie, with his left eye still bloodshot. He spoke somberly and bowed deeply several times in apology.

Ichikawa said he had been drinking with a group of young men he had just met and later helped one of them who passed out. He said this may have led to a misunderstanding, as other men in the group then attacked him.

He declined to give further details about the brawl.

Japanese media have reported that police have obtained an arrest warrant for a 26-year-old man for an alleged assault, but quoted one of the attackers as saying Ichikawa encouraged the fight.

The injuries have forced him to cancel an appearance in a high-profile year-end show in Kyoto.

Japanese media reports estimated the damage from his absence on stage and TV commercials to be around 100 million to 200 million yen ($1.2 million to $2.4 million). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa police call on OPP to investigate abuse videos

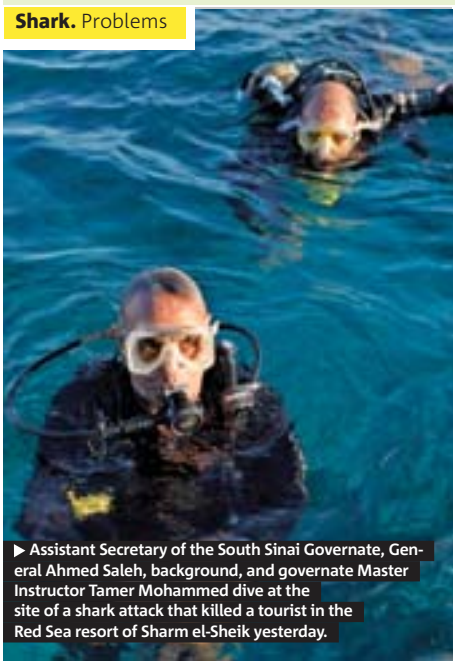
Ottawa's police force has called in its provincial counterparts to investigate after videos were released showing officers striking two prisoners and cutting a woman's clothes off.

Acting Chief Gilles Larochelle was to provide details later this afternoon after the force formally called on the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate the officers' actions.

The beleaguered Ottawa force is also reviewing its detention policies after admitting last week that the videos have shaken the public's confidence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shark. Problems



▶ Assistant Secretary of the South Sinai Governate, General Ahmed Saleh, background, and governate Master Instructor Tamer Mohammed dive at the site of a shark attack that killed a tourist in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik yesterday.

NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rare attacks in Egypt

Authorities have reopened some Red Sea beaches that were closed to swimmers after an unusual series of shark attacks over the past week, including the fatal mauling of a German tourist.

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Canadian man on death row seeks stay in sentence

Smith was sentenced to death for the 1982 murders of two men He chose the death penalty over a life term, but changed his mind and has fought the decision since

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Ronald Smith

Lawyers for the state and for Canadian death-row inmate Ronald Smith are asking the Montana Supreme Court to block his Jan. 31 execution while he challenges the state's execution method.

District Judge John Larson of Missoula set the execution date for Smith last month, just two days after District Judge Jeff Sherlock of Helena issued an order staying Smith's execution.

Larson asked the Supreme Court to intervene, arguing only the sentencing court has the power to stay an execution.

Lee Newspapers of Montana reports lawyers for Smith and the state submitted briefs Monday arguing that the case challenging the constitutionality of the death protocol must be decided before an execution date can be set. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cops get the OK after van strikes woman

Police have been cleared after a woman in Kitchener, Ont., was injured by a van that had refused to stop for officers in late October.

The Special Investigations Unit says a stolen van refused to stop when provincial police officers tried to stop the vehicle on Highway 401.

Police did not pursue the van because of weather concerns.

Waterloo region police also spotted the van but did not launch a pursuit.

The SIU says the van collided with another vehicle, sending a 63-year-old woman to hospital.

The agency says that since police did not pursue the van, officers cannot be held responsible for the collision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶A Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) artist's rendering of the Akatsuki probe reaching Venus.

JAPANESE PROBE MAKES MILESTONE VOYAGE

A Japanese probe reached Venus yesterday and prepared to enter orbit on a two-year mission that would mark a major milestone for Japan's space program and could shed light on the climate of Earth's mysterious neighbour.

The probe, Akatsuki, which means "dawn," would be the first Japan has ever placed into orbit around another planet and comes after the country recently brought a probe back from a trip to an asteroid.

Other space programs, including the Americans' and the Europeans', have successfully launched missions to orbit other planets.

Scientists said they briefly lost contact with the probe early yesterday.

They encountered new communication problems later in the day and were not able to confirm if it was successful. A spokesman said it would take several more hours than expected to determine the probe's status. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo, centre, poses with his newly-named cabinet at the presidency in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, yesterday.

Hundreds flee Ivory Coast as cabinet named

- Country struggled to hold an election since 2005
- President extended stay, said rebels prevented elections

Incumbent Laurent Gbagbo went ahead and named his cabinet posts yesterday, appointing a man who has faced UN and U.S. sanctions in further defiance of international calls for him to concede the presidential election.

The continuing uncertainty over what will happen next in Ivory Coast led hundreds of people to flee the West African country, and the UN also began evacuating some 500 staffers. The UN has said that Gbagbo's opponent, Alassane Ouattara, won the vote.

Yesterday, Gbagbo tapped Charles Ble Goude as his minister of youth, professional education and employment. Goude was sanctioned in 2006, and has been accused of making repeated public statements advocating violence against foreigners and UN installations and personnel.

Goude compared Ivory Coast's deepening political crisis to the 2000 disputed presidential election in the United States.

"When the case made its way to the Supreme Court, and the court declared Bush the winner, I don't think the United Nations made a declaration against Bush," Goude said. "I launch an appeal to the entire world in saying we are a small country, and all we ask is that others respect our sovereignty."

"Considering the distance Ivory Coast has travelled, ignoring the will of the people at this stage would be a letdown of the people of Ivory Coast and a waste of significant resources invested over the past eight years by the international community," UN Security Council member Choi Young-jin said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANSLAUGHTER TRIAL

Jury to see video of shooting

A graphic video showing an eight-year-old boy accidentally shooting himself in the head with a 9 mm Uzi submachine gun can be shown to the jury during the manslaughter trial of a former police chief, a judge in Springfield, Mass. ruled yesterday.

Hampden Superior Court Judge Peter Velis also ruled that the jury in Edward Fleury's trial will hear the recording's audio track at least up to the shooting, but Velis was still deciding whether to leave out some of the sound after the shooting — the boy's screaming and his father praying aloud that his son is all right.

The video shows Christopher Bizilj at a 2008 gun fair, authorities say.

The former police chief was charged because he owned a company that co-sponsored the gun fair, prosecutors said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jews told not to rent or sell to non-Jews

Growing radicalism in Israel between Arabs and Jews fuels racism charges. Scan code for the story.

Loonie up, exports down

Demand remains low in Canada's top markets — especially in the U.S.

Canada's economy is taking a battering from the high dollar combined with low productivity and still needs low interest rates, the Bank of Canada says.

The central bank announced yesterday it will keep its trend-setting interest rate at one per cent until next year — and likely much longer.

"The global economic recovery is proceeding largely as expected, although risks have increased," the bank said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Record deficit

Statistics Canada reported two weeks ago that the current account deficit (a major measure of the country's foreign trade) had hit a record $17.5 billion in the third quarter.

The strong currency contributes to the deficit in two ways — by making Canadian exports more expensive in foreign markets, and foreign imports less expensive for Canadians.

France. Mass withdrawal

Activists show euro bills after withdrawing their money yesterday from a bank in Paris.

JACQUES BRINON /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Run, don't walk, to ATM

Former Manchester United star Eric Cantona, a native of France, said last month that millions of people could help to spark a revolution by withdrawing all their money from their bank accounts. Protest groups called on people to take their money out of their accounts yesterday in a co-ordinated bank run.

Calgary exec No. 5 on screw-up list

A top executive with Calgary's city-owned electrical utility has made Forbes Magazine's Top 10 list for the fifth biggest CEO screw-up of the year.

The magazine cited Enmax's Gary Holden for an email he sent to employees criticizing media coverage of his $2.7-million pay package and private house parties featuring rock stars.

Holden told staff members he had been railroaded and warned people not to share any information with the media.

Helen Coster, who wrote the screw-up article, said most CEOs would have used a public relations expert to handle such matters.

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi is demanding a closer look at Enmax's books, and company officials are promising to publicly reveal executive pay scales by the end of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Train maker strikes deal with China

Bombardier has signed an agreement with China's Ministry of Railways to strengthen its partnership to develop products and systems for Chinese railway markets as well as internationally.

The memorandum of understanding covers things ranging from rolling stock to signalling solutions for China's mainline and regional markets.

Both parties also agreed to collaborate on the development of the existing high-speed and very high-speed trains, along with other trains such as regional trains.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Traders shrug off rate news as TSX ends down

Oil prices slip after rising to two-year high more than $90 a barrel Oil rose more than $10 in two weeks

The Toronto stock market was lower yesterday amid more positive earnings from the financial sector and weaker oil prices and as traders took in news that the Bank of Canada is leaving its key rate unchanged at one per cent.

Analysts said the market was unaffected by the announcement since it had been widely anticipated.

The Canadian dollar lost early momentum following the announcement as it looked more likely the bank would hold off on raising rates until at least the middle of 2011.

Meanwhile, Bank of Montreal reported that its profits rose 14 per cent to $739 million in the fourth quarter, beating expectations. The bank says its net income was equal to $1.26 on a cash per share basis.

The results capped a mostly positive run of quarterly reports from the big Canadian banks. National Bank was among those beating expectations and the only one to raise its dividend, while Toronto-Dominion narrowly missed and the Royal Bank fell well short.

"We do expect that all banks will likely start to raise their dividends next year, with Bank of Nova Scotia probably being the next one to do it," Kathryn Delgreco, investment adviser at TD Waterhouse, said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
– 25.34 (13,250.67)	– 0.60¢ ($98.87¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas million Btu
– 69¢ US ($88.69 US)	$4.393 (– 9.5¢)

Gold contracts $1,409.00 (– $7.10)

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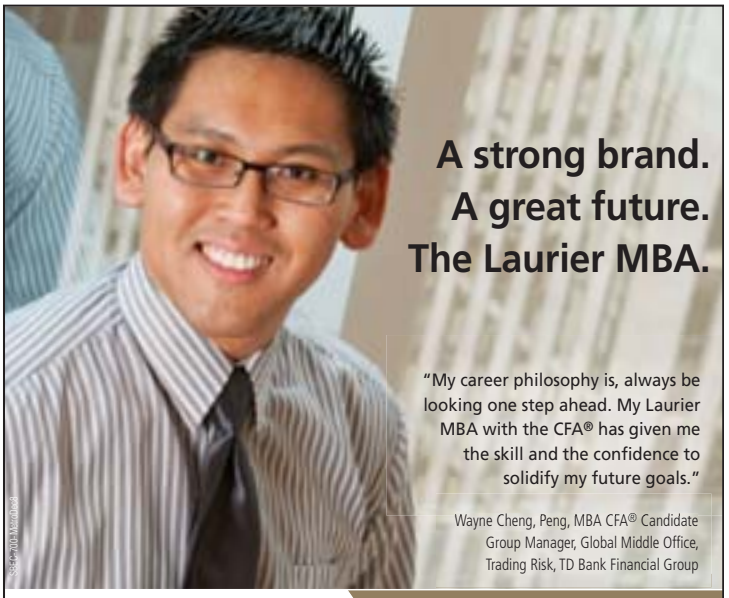

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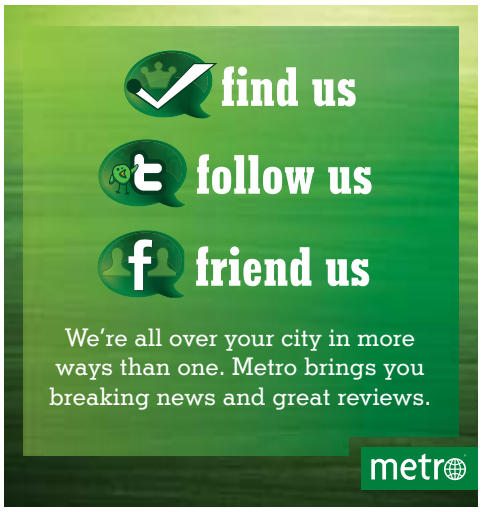
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Urban home prices going up, Re/Max says

Toronto area will be up 2% Vancouver area will see largest jump at 10% Windsor sales will jump 5%

Real estate agency Re/Max says all Canadian cities will see housing prices rise in 2011, with the average price expected to go up three per cent to $350,000 by the end of next year.

Meanwhile, Re/Max predicts a five per cent fall in new and resale home sales to 441,000 units this year compared with last, with around the same number expected to sell in 2011.

Lower inventories in several markets are boosting prices, but low interest rates and improved consumer confidence will lead to improved sales in every province moving forward.

Re/Max said there will be an increase in home values in nearly every city next year, with St. John's, N.L., leading the way with an expected eight per cent increase in the average price.

2%

The Greater Toronto Area will see more stability in 2011 as the economy improves, with average home prices going up two per cent to an average of $440,000, it said.

Home values in Greater Vancouver, Kelowna, B.C., Regina, Saskatoon, London, Ont., Ottawa, Sudbury, and Greater Montreal are all predicted to climb five per cent.

Meanwhile, condominiums are expected to get a bigger share of the market in 2011, and first-time buyers will be most active, looking for affordable homes less than $500,000.

"The relentless drive in the market reminiscent of years past will be gone and, instead, we can expect to see more normal, balanced market conditions, with buyers maintaining a slight edge," Elton Ash, regional executive vice-president, Re/Max of Western Canada, said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EVERYONE IS BLAMING THE MESSENGER

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

Julian Assange, first martyr of the Internet?

It certainly looks that way. The founder of WikiLeaks, the man who embarrassed heads of state around the world by leaking thousands of messages written by U.S. diplomats, has been arrested and is cooling his heels in a London jail without bail, waiting to find out if he will be extradited for having sex in Sweden.

Yep, you read that right. The more you read about the alleged sexual molestation case against the 39-year-old Aussie, the more you have to wonder if he's being set up for tattling on the world.

Accounts in Newsweek, the Daily Mail, AOL News, etc., make it clear he's not being held on rape charges, but something called "sex by surprise," and one of the women allegedly surprised by sex bought breakfast after the alleged surprise.

In Sweden, where casual sex is a sacred institution, second only to Ikea.

"... the more you have to wonder if he's being set up for tattling on the world."

Meanwhile, my counterparts in the media, champions of freedom of expression, are all joining the mob to lynch Assange for spilling U.S. diplomatic secrets. It's his fault the nations of the world are engaging in skullduggery that can't bear the light of day.

Everyone forgets that the Internet changes everything. They forget the original leak came from a disgruntled "intelligence" officer, who was able to steal all this confidential information by downloading it. No need to sneak around like Maxwell Smart with cameras shaped like cigarette lighters.

Pte. 1st Class Bradley Manning, 23, was allegedly engaging in the kind of cyber-leaking characteristic of the Internet generation. If it's digital, no secret is safe. U.S. diplomats, a bunch of geezers lulled by a completely unjustified sense of false security, felt free to send each other sizzling secrets via email. And now they're blaming Julian Assange. Manning could have just as easily leaked the information to SmokingGun.com, for example, and we could be running after those guys with torches and pitchforks.

Assange, a relatively old geek at 39, gets the new Borg Mind. Resistance is futile. WikiLeaks has distributed the Mother of All Secret Files to 100,000 co-conspirators in cyberspace, and if he goes down, he sends them all an encryption key, and that's it for secrets.

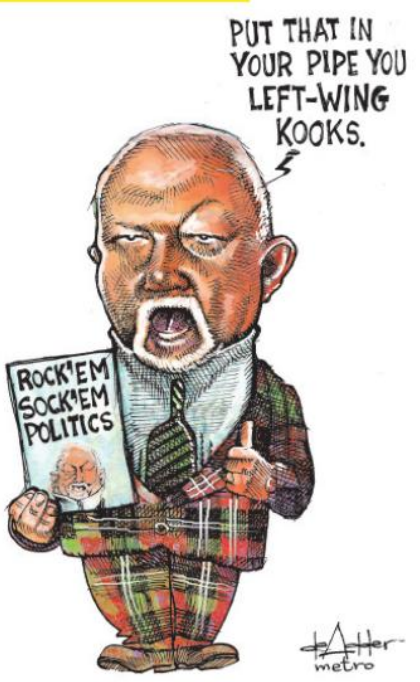
I don't know what's going to happen. I do know we're finally going to learn that privacy is an analog thing. I don't know if that's good or bad, but if you believe that those who hold the secrets hold the power, maybe you should hold a candlelight vigil for Julian Assange.

He's going to need it.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Collector nets nest egg

Worth mentioning

19th-century masterpiece

MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

To some it's just a bunch of bird pictures. To others, John James Audubon's Birds Of America is a rare blend of art, natural history and craftsmanship, unique enough to sell for more than $10 million US at a London, England, auction yesterday — making it the world's most expensive printed book.

Some of the world's wealthiest book collectors had been anticipating the auction for months: It represents a chance to own one of the best preserved editions of Audubon's 19th-century masterpiece, with its 435 hand-coloured illustrations.

The book sold for $10,270,000 at a Sotheby's auction to an anonymous collector bidding by telephone, the auction house said.

While the Audubon volume holds the record for a printed book, a 72-page notebook of Leonardo da Vinci's handwritten notes and illustrations went for even more. Known as the Leicester Codex, the collection was bought by Bill Gates in 1994 for $31 million.

Each individual picture in Birds Of America is so valuable there have been some fears the volume could be broken up and sold as 435 separate works of art. Experts believe that unlikely: The tome is probably more valuable intact. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Real or artificial Christmas tree? Why?

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Metro Minute with coffee passport

Most of your coffee requires a passport to get to you, so it's only fair you should try to reciprocate.

That's not exactly the motivation behind the Indie Coffee Passport, but it made for a snappier lead.

The real idea is to encourage patrons to discover the wealth of our city's independent caffeine breweries. With each passport, you are entitled to a coffee or tea from any of the 24 participating shops.

How much do people love this idea? Passport holder Phil Hung maxed out his card in less than a month. No one has seen him since.

Starting today, passports go on sale for the holidays at indiecoffeepassport.com.

JORDANA DIVON

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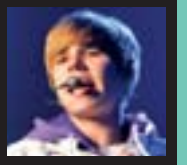
News in brief



Canuck pop star Justin Bieber will soon be a collectible.

The 16-year-old Stratford, Ont., native is getting his own line of trading cards from Panini America.

Bieber, who also has a line of dolls, will be featured in 150 unique cards and 30 stickers when the trading card set launches this week.

The set will also have 500 randomly inserted authentic Bieber autograph cards, along with nine-card puzzles that create mini Bieber posters.

Bieber earned two Grammy Award nods when nominations were announced last week, including best new artist.

Each pack will include five Bieber cards and one sticker and will retail for US$1.99.

"I always dreamed of being a hockey player and having my own trading card," Bieber said in a release. "I remember collecting hockey cards, so the idea that kids are going to enjoy my cards like I enjoyed my hockey cards is amazing!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-Sunshine Band member sentenced to 7 years for sex charges involving teens

▶ Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie star in The Tourist, which opens on Friday.

Jolie gets in touch with her femininity

Actress gets to show off her elegant side in The Tourist Filming in Paris and Venice helped sway her decision to pick the movie

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

For a successful actor, a lot of different factors go into choosing a project, but when it initially came to signing on for The Tourist, Angelina Jolie had one thing on her mind.

"I had questioned if there was anything out there that shot in a great location. Honestly, that was the phone call I made," she says with a laugh. "And I got this call that there was this film that happened to shoot in Venice and Paris and it was a real lady, so I was interested."

The film features Jolie, as the estranged girlfriend of a wanted felon, as she leads Johnny Depp's out-of-his-depths American tourist into an international game of cat and mouse, with cops from several nations and a handful of gangsters on the trail. But while there's plenty of action and gunplay, Jolie's character doesn't really get her hands dirty.

"It took me a while to get the heels and the gloves and the whole how to hold the handbag," she says of her über-elegant character. "I think everybody knows I'm not necessarily that female in that way. So it was a little bit of an exercise to get in there."

While working with co-writer and director Florien Henckel von Donnersmarck, Jolie found the hardest part of nailing the character was learning to take it easy.

"My note that I got every day was slow down," she says. "Because as very modern woman, we attack things, we're aggressive, we move through. We're like New Yorkers, you know? So this is the hardest thing for me, to kind of take a deep breath and just glide a little more. It took me a really long time."

Big family

Alone time. In the five years since Angelina Jolie met partner Brad Pitt, the actress has gone from a single mother with one child (adopted son Maddox) to a mother of six. So when does she find time for herself? "You just give it up at a certain point," she says with a laugh. "Even trying to take a bath, everybody comes in. You just give it up. And it's OK. But I try, when everybody goes to bed you try to have it, but no."

Bettany brings Scotland Yard back to the forefront

Playing a cop in a movie where the criminals are the main characters — and have all the fun — can get to a guy, but British actor Paul Bettany didn't let that stop him from chasing Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp around Paris and Venice as an obsessed Scotland Yard detective in The Tourist.

Metro caught up with Bettany in Paris to talk about representing Scotland Yard and how he picks his roles

It's nice to see Scotland Yard get a mention in a movie again.
Right. It's still there. I guess because I grew up in England, and Scotland Yard was a news item, it wasn't Sherlock Holmes for me, do you know what I mean?

For me it doesn't hold the same romance as it probably will for my children, who are growing up in New York City.

▶ Paul Bettany

Do you have a preference in playing good guys or bad guys?
No, I don't. I love doing as many different things as I can. And maybe that is a drawback in today's age of acting. It's a peculiar thing. The only plan I've ever had — which is probably stupid of me — is to do as many different things, to play as many different types of people and types of characters as I can.

That sounds smart, actually.
Perhaps it's not. I mean, it's worked really well for Johnny Depp, but he's an anomaly, in that he's so — he's like a character actor who happens to be in a leading man position. You know, I mean, he plays characters, and it's what thrills him, clearly, about acting.

NED EHRBAR

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▶ Actress Olivia Wilde, director Joseph Kosinski and actor Jeff Bridges from TRON: Legacy.

Keeping up with the times key for TRON

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

As if making your first movie wasn't daunting enough, Joseph Kosinski took on the added challenge of trying to satisfy millions of fanboys when he agreed to direct the highly-anticipated TRON: Legacy.

"The original TRON was a completely unique vision; it looked like nothing else out there," said Kosinski behind his film's hit 1982 sci-fi predecessor. "It pushed boundaries in terms of technology in a way that hadn't been done before and I just think conceptually it was 10 years ahead of its time."

The tale of a son rescuing his computer-genius father (Jeff Bridges) two decades after he disappears into the digital game world he designed not only allowed the award-winning commercial director to explore an original vision, but it gave Kosinski the unique opportunity to work on the absolute latest technologies in moviemaking.

"The biggest challenge on this movie is what it is on any movie regardless of size — it's creating a compelling script."
JOSEPH KOSINSKI, DIRECTOR

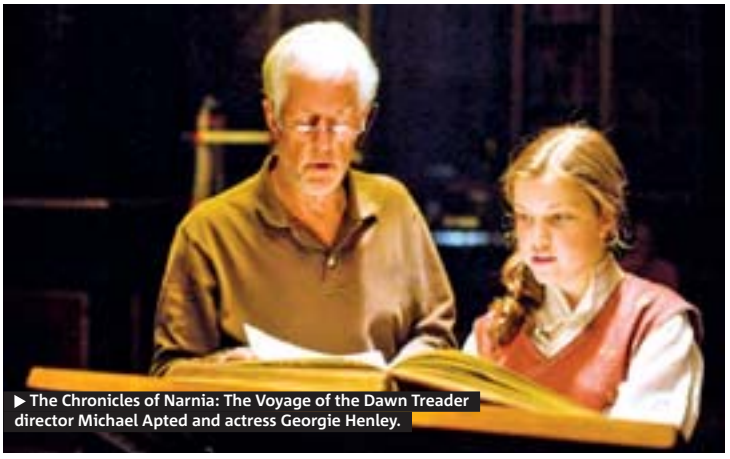
"Our production was pretty adaptive and we were always keeping up, changing methodologies in the visual effects," said Kosinski. "You can't really change the script or the story but in terms of your technique and technology, you have to just be mobile because it's a three-year project and things change."

That technological mobility gives TRON: Legacy an incredibly modern 3-D look, which complements the film's subject matter.

Narnia's latest hits the water

- Voyage of the Dawn Treader the third in the Narnia franchise
- Filming on the water was a big obstacle for director Michael Apted

EMMA E. FORREST
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON



▶ The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader director Michael Apted and actress Georgie Henley.

A big budget, a huge cast and crew and using 3-D for the first time are huge obstacles for any director to overcome, but nature trumped it all for Michael Apted, the director of The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

The third installment of the fantasy franchise hits theatres on Friday.

The biggest challenge was making a movie largely set on the sea, Apted said.

"I thought, How are we going to make a movie on water? I took some advice from some colleagues who said, 'Never make a movie on water', so once we'd resolved that it became more manageable," joked Apted, at a press conference at London's Dorchester Hotel, when asked about a scene where the children meet Aslan in front of a huge tidal wave.

"It's such fast-moving technology. I don't think we could have done the wave scene even 18 months ago. The technology for doing water has changed enormously."

Apted shot the boat on land by the side of the sea, so he had about 100 per cent horizon. It was placed on a gimbal so that it moved up and down and sideways, but the sea was created by computer effects.

"It's a million miles away from Bond," said Apted, who was at the helm of James Bond's The World Is Not Enough. "Where you're supposed to think he really can do it, you don't really go into the world of surrealism — at least not until after the one after I did, things went a bit haywire after that, because I wasn't there."

The film is 3-D, largely to create depth than to allow objects to jump out at you. The CGI was created in 3-D and the filming was done in 2-D then converted.

"It was curious to me, that when we were starting converting, we took a lot of heat from colleagues like James Cameron saying that we would debase the coinage (value) by not shooting it in 3-D, but then I found out that he was converting Titanic into 3-D. Then I learnt that George Lucas, our great mentor, is converting all the Star Wars films into 3-D, so that tells me something, that maybe it is here to stay."

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Seeking salvation from vampire era

Queen of the blood sucking genre moving on with her Seraphim series

NATASHA LEVINGER
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Anne Rice has been very open about consecrating her writing to God (the Interview with the Vampire author very famously rejoined the Catholic church in 1998 and then just-as-famously renounced her dedication to organized religion this year).

But if Rice had to do it over, she might have kept a bit more quiet about it all.

"I think it can be very off-putting to readers to read that you consecrated your writing to God. It can give them the wrong idea." Rice says,

"I'm absolutely committed to writing what reflects my own beliefs and my own world view. But I'm not sure I would tell anybody if I had to do it over because I think it stood between me and my readers."

Rice's new book, Love and Evil, out now in the U.S., is the second novel in Rice's Songs of the Seraphim series, which follows an ex-assassin named Toby on his quest for salvation.

And although Love and Evil is written in Rice's typical engrossing style — and comes complete with a nail-biter of an ending — she might leave her leagues of dedicated fans waiting a bit to learn more about Toby's fate.

"I can see the third book pretty clearly but I'm not going to write it right now. I need a little time to think about Toby's options and how he's going to respond to that cliffhanger," she says.

In the meantime, the queen of modern vampire fiction says she's working on a book about the ancient mythical city of Atlantis.

"It's a book about immortals that have been on this planet since ancient Atlantis. It's really thrilling to be writing about immortals who are not vampires. You don't have to kill anybody, you don't have to drink any blood, but they're immortal. I get to have all the fun of describing how they see us and how they see our culture and see our Christian faith and all of those things from their perspective."

"I'm absolutely committed to writing what reflects my own beliefs and my own world view. But I'm not sure I would tell anybody if I had to do it over because I think it stood between me and my readers."
ANNE RICE ON HER NEW NOVEL LOVE AND EVIL

FILE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Anne Rice's latest novel Love and Evil is on shelves now.

Enjoying genre

Anne Rice on the modern vampire movies:

▶ **Quoted:** "I saw the two Twilight movies and I thought they were fun," she says. "Since I don't write about the vampires anymore I'm enjoying it. I finished my work in 2003; it's done. I'm free now to kick back and watch True Blood on HBO and just enjoy it without thinking about ... the whole thing."

COMPLAINTS

Dr. Oz show under fire

The Dr. Oz Show needs a transfusion of respect for the nursing profession, a media watchdog group said after the TV show featured women costumed as sexy nurses.

The November segment about weight loss featured six women wearing high heels, retro nurses' caps and white dresses with red lingerie peeking out. The women danced briefly with series host Dr. Mehmet Oz and the audience.

Sandy Summers, executive director of the non-profit group The Truth About Nursing, called the segment demoralizing and demeaning to nurses. She has launched a letter-writing campaign encouraging others to protest it.

You can find out more about the campaign at the truthaboutnursing.org.

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X-tina pregnancy rumours persist

Christina Aguilera faces questions over nature of her new relationship

The timing of Christina Aguilera's divorce from Jordan Bratman and her blossoming relationship with Burlesque production assistant Matthew Rutler have some speculating that she began her new romance before ending her marriage — and gossip blog the Superficial has gone so far as to say she may be pregnant.

While Aguilera has insisted that she only started dating Rutler after her split from Bratman, new photos from the Burlesque set published by the Daily Mail show the pair close by each other's side on a very regular basis earlier this year.

METRO

Talking points

Timberlake on the shelf

INJURED An injury Justin Timberlake suffered while performing a stunt on the set of his new movie, Now, has shut down the production, according to E! Online.

Timberlake has been on crutches while performing promotional duties for other projects — including the Social Network and Yogi Bear — while waiting for his wounded calf muscle to heal. "(Timberlake) hasn't heard anything about the MRI results, but they're freezing production until he's off crutches and able to act again," a source says.

METRO

Celebrity tweets

Lady Gaga [@ladygaga] Havin a little too much fun on tourbus. Played the album for label, the rest is History.

Justin Timberlake [@jtimberlake] Justin Timberlake is alive! We raised $1mil to help KCA fight AIDS. Thank you so much and never stop buying life!

Sarah Silverman [@SarahKSilverman] It's only romantic for a man to leave a trail of rose petals if he then cleans up said rose petals

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DANIEL BAYER

▶ Aspen

NIGHTLIFE
Aspen, Colorado

Aspen is arguably the best winter resort in the world, and when the sun goes down, this small town has nightlife to beat many international cities. There are more than 40 restaurants within six blocks offering everything from exclusive gourmet dining to freshly-made take-out pizza. The bars range from the hip hangouts to lively local watering holes. And if that's not enough, there are nightclubs and live music venues, too.

aspensnowmass.com

THRILL-SEEKERS
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Jackson Hole has some of the steepest and most challenging ski and boarding terrain in North America. And unlike many resorts in the U.S., it allows you to use the lift system to gain access to the surrounding backcountry. It's hardcore terrain, and not for the inexperienced or ill-prepared. There's no avalanche control, so you go out at your own risk.

jacksonhole.com

▶ Winter Park

BUDGET
Winter Park, Colorado

Winter Park is the closest major resort to Denver, making it a contender for a cheaper, one-week stay. There are three mountains with a huge variety of terrain and a very impressive snowfall record. There is a new resort-based village as well as a small town close by and together they offer more than 50 bars and restaurants.

skiwinterpark.com

NON-SKIERS
Heavenly, California/Nevada

Situated on the shores of Lake Tahoe, Heavenly is where to go to enjoy stunning scenery. It sits astride the state line and as Nevada allows gambling there are several major casinos with cabaret shows, gaming tables, restaurants, bars, spas and live music. There are also trips out into the desert, visits to old West ghost towns and boat cruises on the lake.

skiheavenly.com

BEGINNERS
Breckenridge, Colorado

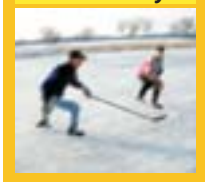
When you are learning to ski or board, quality professional instructors and a variety of perfect-pitch slopes make all the difference. Not only does Breckenridge score extremely high with both, the deal-breaker is its Colorado powder snow – this stuff is incredibly light and fluffy, which means fewer falls, and softer landings when you do.

breckenridge.com

METRO

3 life

Pond hockey



Boardercross and pond hockey are among outdoor activities available this winter in the Jacques-Cartier region outside Quebec City. Stoneham Mountain Resort, a half-hour drive north of the provincial capital, has added a boardercross course and doubled the size of a snow park to give freestyle beginners more challenges.

And the eighth edition of the Lac-Beauport Pond Hockey Tournament will be held Feb. 5-6, hosting more than 100 teams on 25 rinks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Founders of Creation Museum propose religious theme park featuring Noah's Ark

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A cool capital

This city knows how to make the most of the season, and the best attractions don't cost a thing

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Let's face it. Most of Canada is darn chilly this time of year, but few places capitalize (no pun intended) on that more than our country's own capital.

How cool is it to skate down the longest rink in the world, with Parliament Hill as a backdrop? And…it's free! Since the early 1970s the Rideau Canal is transformed every year into an eight-kilometre long skateway that winds through downtown.

What could be more Canadian than lacing up the old blades and whizzing down the equivalent of 100 rinks, while wearing a maple leaf pattern toque? The only thing missing is our national symbol, the beaver, and even he isn't too far away. After a hard skate in the nippy air, take a break to devour a uniquely Ottawa pastry treat called the "beaver tail" available at kiosks along the canal.

I don't think I've ever consumed that much dough, cinnamon and sugar in one sitting, but if you can keep it down, it's worth it, just for that carnival-like sugar high. I could already feel my arteries hardening from that sugary treat, but I have to admit it was tasty, and hey – I could always burn it off with another skate.

The Rideau Canal skateway is open from around Christmas to early March every day, weather permitting. It's a true great white north experience not to be missed.

Other Cool Things to Do in Ottawa

• Take a free tour of Parliament Hill: Whether or not you're a fan of the government, it's worth the visit to the Gothic style buildings on a bluff overlooking the Ottawa River. Tours are free daily, unless there is special government business.

• Try snowshoeing in Gatineau Park: Located only 15 minutes north of downtown, the park offers miles of trails especially for snowshoers. The trails are compacted weekly for ideal winter hiking. Admission is free, and you can rent shoes for a measly five bucks an hour…

▶ Ottawa really comes to life in winter. Some locals even skate along the Rideau canal for their daily commute.

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London Travel Jan 20 - Jan 27/ts	$149	+ taxes & fees $437
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Vancouver Travel Dec 9/ac	one-way $185	+ taxes & fees $85
Costa Rica Travel Dec 13 - Dec 20/wg	$195	+ taxes & fees $219
New Orleans Travel Jan 10 - Jan 17/ac	$198	+ taxes & fees $106
Glasgow Travel Jan 3 - Jan 20/ts	$199	+ taxes & fees $439
Los Angeles Travel Jan 10 - Jan 17/ac	$224	+ taxes & fees $121
Honolulu Travel Jan 11 - Jan 19/ac	$578	+ taxes & fees $138
Delhi Travel Jan 18 - Feb 3/ey	$809	+ taxes & fees $410

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Vacations

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Fairmont Southampton Bermuda + taxes & fees $135
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Departs Jan 7/wsv/ws.

Niagara Falls Valentine's Day
2 Nights $89
Crowne Plaza Niagara Falls taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom in the heart of Niagara Falls. Departs Feb 11/ggv. ADD Light up the Falls dinner package from $55. UPGRADE to the 5-star Pillar & Post in Niagara on the Lake from $119 per person.

Dublin St Patrick's Day
Air + 5 Nights $1089
Hilton Dublin Hotel + taxes & fees $402
INCLUDES 4-star accom in Dublin city centre.
Departs Mar 15/ggv/kl.

Hong Kong Chinese New Year
Air + 5 Nights $1149
Harbour Plaza North Point + taxes & fees $313
INCLUDES 4-star accom on Hong Kong island.
Departs Jan 31/ggv/dl.

Australia Air + 14 Nights $2029
Palazzo Colonnades (SFP), Metro Hotel on Pitt (SYD) + taxes & fees $458
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Southern Caribbean
7-Night New Year's Cruise USD $599
Carnival Victory + taxes & fees USD $68
CRUISE roundtrip San Juan and visit St Thomas, St Kitts, St Lucia, St Maarten & Barbados. Sails Dec 26/crv.

South Pacific 10-Night Cruise $839
Royal Princess + taxes & fees $92
CRUISE roundtrip Papeete (double overnight) and visit Huahine, Rangiroa, Bora Bora (overnight), Raitea & Moorea. Departs Jan 8/prn.

Hawai'i 14-Night Cruise USD $1199
Golden Princess + taxes & fees USD $51
CRUISE roundtrip Los Angeles and visit Hilo, Honolulu, Nawiliwili, Lahaina & Ensenada. Sails Jan 19/prn.

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JOURNEY WOMAN

EVELYN HANNON
JOURNEYWOMAN.COM

The concept of travelling for business is not always as exciting as it sounds. Journeywoman recently asked some of our favourite well-travelled businesswomen to share their secrets for safety and success on the road.

Importance of sleep

Try reading, meditating, light stretching, a hot shower or listening to a relaxing CD to determine a pre-sleep ritual that works best for you.

Chris Brodnax, Manager Brand Marketing for Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts

Packing

You only need three pieces of clothing with some accessories for all occasions: a dress, a skirt and a jacket. Darker is better and black is best. Never bring more than one lipstick and two pairs of shoes.

Helen Lovekin, Media Relations Coordinator North America, Ontario Tourism

By car

Look for a hotel that has valet parking, particularly if you'll be arriving at night. It may cost a little bit more, but the price of safety and security (and convenience) is worth it.

Connie Glaser, author of What Queen Esther Knew

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Milwaukee shows off its art

The Milwaukee Art Museum has put together a new exhibit that features artwork curators there have acquired over the last 10 years.

The approximately 50 drawings, etchings, lithographs, and woodcuts are by a variety of artists, including Rembrandt, Picasso and Paul Gauguin. The museum has collected nearly 3,000 works altogether in the last decade.

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DENISE SURETTE/FOR METRO CANADA

▶ But it's a good start.

Relaxing is just the start

Tired of lying on the beach? The Dominican Republic offers plenty of adventures, from sailing to horseback riding

SURETTE
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Between bursts of Dominican sunshine and rum, you might forget to hold on for dear life. But no one on the catamaran sailing from Puerto Plata to the Bay of Sosua is unprepared for the unexpected.

While you might consider a Dominican vacation for relaxation, excitement and enjoying the geography can also be part your trip.

The Dominican Republic has many excursions to entice you from your resort. There are several on the peninsula of Samana, about 150 kilometres from Puerto Plata.

Samana is an up-and-comer for tourists looking for something besides beaches. Lush mountains covered in more than six million coconut palms make up the green landscape. Available through many local hotels and resorts, Rancho La Manzana provides horses and guides for a riding tour through the mountains to El Limon Waterfalls.

Despite her name, my horse, Violente, is calm as she treks through the rocky hills and slippery mud on the way to El Limon. We come to our destination in about 45 minutes — the top of another steep, jagged path. Too steep for the horses, hikers gingerly descend toward a stunning 40 metre waterfall, with a deep, green pool at the bottom you can swim in.

For a boating and hiking excursion, Samana's Los Haitises National Park provides a comprehensive half-day tour. Los Haitises, a sanctuary of caves and islands, is just a 45-minute boat ride from Samana.

Our speedboat tour takes us close to native hieroglyphs drawn inside ancient caves, friendly pelicans, and rocky islands.

Some of the caves can be seen by boat, others include a short walk inland from a docking area.

If you go

Excursions are available through resorts in the area.

- **Catamaran** boat tour from Puerto Plata to Sosua – $89 US
- **Horseback** riding tour to El Limon in Samana – $59 US
- **Boat tour** through Los Haitises National Park – $89 US

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▶ Your trek is rewarded with a swim at El Limon waterfalls.

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A sweet wreath to ring in the season

American Holiday Wreath Bread fuses taste, tradition and culture

Whether they call it babka, stollen, panettone, king cake, cozonac, kringle or challah, people around the world use rich, festive breads to celebrate holidays.

These breads can be glazed, sugared, topped with streusel or nuts, or decorated with candied fruits. They may be braided or woven, logs or loaves. But whatever their shape or seasoning, they always seem to taste of celebration and joy.

And so we decided to create a holiday bread that reflects America's fusion of cultures.

We drew on the recipes and traditions of numerous holiday breads to bake one that will seem at once familiar and fresh.

And because holidays and their food are meant to be shared with loved ones, we made it big. Really big. And really good.

So bake it and, of course, share it!

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Holidays breads are typically laden with fruit, nuts and spices.

Ingredients:

Dough
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) water
- Hearty pinch saffron threads, crushed
- 500 ml (2 cups) milk
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) instant (also called fast-rise) yeast
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) honey
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) vegetable or canola oil
- 3 whole eggs
- 3 egg yolks
- 10 ml (2 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp ground cardamom
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cinnamon
- 2 l (8 cups) bread flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) golden raisins
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) dried cranberries
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) hazelnuts, toasted and chopped
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) candied ginger, chopped

Filling
- 1 pkg (250 g/8 oz) cream cheese
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) lemon zest

Topping
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) brown sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) all-purpose flour
- 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) cinnamon
- Pinch salt
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) unsalted butter (3/4 stick), cut in chunks
- 1 egg, beaten with 5 ml (1 tsp) water

Icing
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) powdered sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) heavy cream
- 1 egg
- 5 ml (1 tsp) almond extract

Preparation:

1 In a microwave safe bowl, combine water and saffron. Microwave on high until boiling, then set aside to cool.

2 Once cooled, in the bowl of a stand mixer, combine saffron water, milk, yeast, honey, oil, eggs, yolks, salt, cardamom, cinnamon and flour. Using dough hook attachment, mix on low until a soft dough forms. Continue mixing on low to knead for 6 to 7 minutes.

3 Add raisins, cranberries, hazelnuts and ginger, then knead until incorporated. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and allow to rest for 2 hours. The dough also can be placed in the refrigerator and allowed to rest overnight. Shortly before dough has finished resting, make cream cheese filling and streusel topping.

4 Filling: In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to cream together cream cheese and sugar until well combined and lump-free. Add egg and lemon zest and mix until smooth. Set aside.

5 Streusel Topping: In a medium bowl, combine both sugars, flour, cinnamon and salt. Add butter and rub together until it has all been incorporated and crumbs have all been moistened.

6 When dough has finished resting, it should be doubled in size and quite puffy. Coat a large baking pan with baking spray or line the pan with parchment paper. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll your dough into a 60-by-45-cm (24-by-18-inch) rectangle. Spread your cream cheese filling over the surface of the dough, leaving a 5-cm (2-inch) strip of uncovered dough along the long side farthest from you.

7 Starting with the side closest to you, roll dough up to form a long log. Slightly moisten edge of dough and pinch to seal. Keeping sealed edge of log on bottom, move dough to prepared sheet pan. Bring ends together to form a large circle, then insert one end into the other end to seal. The wreath should be about 30 cm (12 inches) across

8 Paint wreath all over with beaten egg, then top with streusel mixture, patting it into place with your hands. Cover loosely with plastic wrap, then let rest for an hour or until risen and puffy. After about 45 minutes of rising, heat oven to 180 C (350 F).

9 Use a sharp knife to make about 6 slashes around top of bread. Bake for 1 hour or until a deep golden colour. Let cool for 5 minutes before moving to a rack to cool completely. Once cooled, prepare icing. In a medium bowl, whisk together powdered sugar, cream and almond extract. Drizzle over loaf.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number):
421 calories; 131 calories from fat (31 per cent of total calories); 15 g fat (6 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 95 mg cholesterol; 64 g carbohydrate; 10 g protein; 2 g fibre; 225 mg sodium.

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The nudge

For many companies, a downgrade in a job title is a tactic to nudge an unwanted employee toward the exit chute. Barbara Frankel, a career coach in New, explains:

- It may mean that the company is demoting you so that you'll be so disgruntled that you leave on your own.
- If you feel that the company is trying to push you out of the door, you may be right. Trust your gut.
- If you feel strongly against it, use this as a motivator to consider a career and life change in another office.

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A demotion doesn't mean that you should settle

Career counsellors advise that being demoted at work can be your chance to bargain or start over

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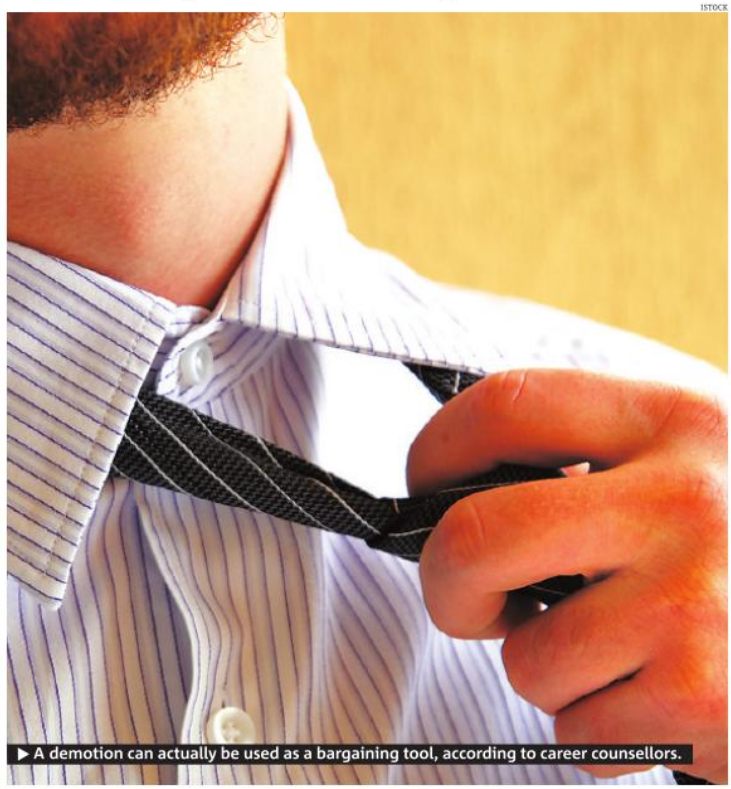


A demotion can actually be used as a bargaining tool, according to career counsellors.

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

What higher management giveth, it can taketh away. When your overlings revoke that prestigious promotion and dump you back onto the factory floor with the proletariat, the reverse vertigo can leave you feeling like a token trapped in the company's game of Chutes and Ladders.

The temptation for most corporate climbers who take a job title tumble is to hop up, dust off, and dive back in as if nothing ever happened.

But if you'd truly like to bounce back, career counsellors warn, you ought to first seek a sanctuary where you can vent frustrations.

"You need to have a support system outside of work where you can express how you feel so you're not holding it in," says Barbara Frankel, a career coach in New York.

"After you've gotten out your true anger related to the situation, express it to your boss where it's just at the level of disappointment.

"You can say, 'You know, I'm not happy about this. I really enjoyed and preferred that other job.'"

Once you've gathered a clear head, don't be afraid to drive a hard bargain.

"Most people start to feel like a chess piece, like the company is just moving them around, so they don't step up and negotiate," Frankel says.

"You need to enlist your boss, and talk about what's possible from here."

"It may be that your company doesn't see you as a big contributor and this could be an opportunity for you to step up," she adds.

If there's no possible way to view your demotion as an opportunity, it can always be an opportunity to leave.

"No one's got a gun to your head, forcing you to accept the situation," offers Maggie Mistal, host of Sirius Radio's Making a Living.

"It's still a choice you're making."

Whatever you decide, make it deliberate, she suggests.

And don't feel like you have to bum around in a degrading post just to keep your resumé in tact.

"If the resentment is that bad, keep job hunting and going for the job you're geared towards," Mistal says. "You can always justify that to a future employer.

Deck the office halls in a new way

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

▶ Experts advise putting emphasis on employees during holiday office parties.

Think you can deck your office halls with store-bought holly, string mistletoe under the fluorescent lights, sprinkle nutmeg in the coffee maker, and call it a Christmas fête?

Professional party planners say you might as well give your employees a lump of coal — or worse, coal with the company logo monogrammed on it.

"It's hard to forget about work and enjoy the festivities when the phones are ringing," says Phyllis Cambria, author of the Idiot's Guide to Throwing a Great Party.

Of course, it's also hard for corporate number crunchers to justify a lavish jingle bell rock in a recession Christmas.

But tough times, Cambria explains, transform seasonal ceremonies into must-have moments.

It's a time when exhausted desk jockeys can unwrap their personalities and untie those tangled worker-boss relationships.

"What makes it worthwhile is when the bosses put the emphasis on the staff," says Party Charlie, celebrity party planner.

"That's what a holiday party is for. It's an employee appreciation moment."

To pull it off, Charlie suggests getting those snarky underlings to check their cynicism where they check their coat.

"Wherever you have your party, make sure you do something at the entrance," he says.

"The moment that people get to the party, let them know there's a party going on."

An unexpected greeting at the door can spark smiles, especially for spouses and family, whom you should invite, Cambria advises.

For an extra layer of role reversal fun, have company higher-ups guard the entrance like butlers offering tray loads of treats.

"At first, people will be like, 'Hey what's going on?' but then they'll say, 'It is actually pretty cool to have the president of the company serving me hors d'oeuvres,'" says Cambria.

Cheap Ideas

- Rent a tour bus and cruise well-decorated neighbourhoods: "Every city has places that really go all out. This is a fun way to see that," Cambria says.
- Take the staff ice skating: "It's inexpensive and fun," Cambria notes.
- Go out for breakfast: "It's cheaper than lunch or dinner," says Cambria.

Listening to the babble of experts is like trusting a chimp

CRAIG LUND
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

As a species, us human folk respond very poorly to uncertainty.

Just think about how we look to weather readers for forecasts, and how often their predictions aren't exactly accurate.

According to author Dan Gardner, people look to experts to help set their expectations so that they can be prepared for what's to come.

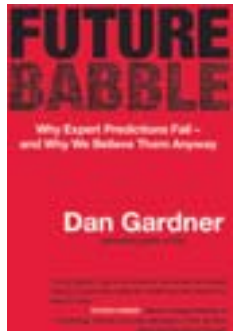
The problem, however, is that these experts are rarely on the mark. In fact, not even close.

In Gardner's book, Future Babble, he references how Brill's magazine "compared the predictions of famous American pundits to a Chimpanzee named Chippy, who made his guesses by choosing among flash cards."

Chippy had more hits than the acclaimed pundits.

Gardner also outlines an exhaustive list of calamities, predicted and real, covering famous documents such as Paul Ehrlich's 1968 The Population Bomb, predicting mass global famine for the '70s (which never happened), and Ravi Batra's 1987 book The Great Depression of 1990, which ended up being a very brief and mild recession.

In both cases, the 'experts' defend their publications with "I was almost right" or "it wouldn't have happened if I hadn't been blindsided by an unforeseeable event."



▶ **Future Babble: Why Expert Predictions Fail — and Why We Believe Them Anyway**
By Dan Gardner, McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 267 pages, $32.99

The most audacious of the excuses is the "self negating prophecy," meaning that because of the warnings and hoopla, we were able to prevent catastrophe. Think Y2K.

One of the experiments Gardner discusses is a shock test conducted on a group of people.

Half of the group was told it would have a series of 17 mild shocks, with three additional random shocks.

The other half was informed it would be exposed to 20 strong shocks.

Results showed that the group exposed to the full series of strong shocks felt far less anxiety as their expectations were that they were getting 20 strong shocks, no surprises.

Future Babble is a truly interesting and thoroughly researched book for the social economist in your network.

Craig Lund, is the President Elect of the American Marketing Associations Toronto Chapter and can be reached at hello@craiglund.ca.

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DANIEL LUBLIN
IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.
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With a new company president reducing operating costs, Lorenzo Russo saw the writing on the wall.

As the long time warehouse manager at candy manufacturer Kerr Bros. Limited, Russo was paid more than $100,000 — a salary considered excessive by his new boss.

After slashing every employee's pay by 10 per cent and cutting the company's pension plan, the president insisted Russo take a pay cut amounting to almost half his usual salary.

Russo refused but his salary was still reduced. He responded by retaining a lawyer.

When a substantial pay cut is imposed by a company, employees typically think in terms of "constructive dismissal," which permits them to leave and then sue for severance.

Here, however, Russo did not accept the change to his compensation. But instead of leaving, he sued for the difference in pay.

At a recent trial, the company argued that, having stayed on after the change to his pay, Russo had condoned it.

However, Russo had made it clear he was not accepting the change and stayed at work while he sued to minimize losses.

The court agreed with Russo and awarded him the difference in the pay he would have earned had his salary not been cut.

What does this case mean for Canadian workplaces? Employees are empowered to reject changes to their jobs since employers cannot simply force significant pay cuts or adverse working conditions on them.

Importantly, employees do not even need to leave work and go to court in order to protest these types of changes.

One strategy is now to stay and sue for damages.

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Lots of talk, but little action at winter meetings

Well, well, look who's entered the Cliff Lee sweepstakes — those cash-slingin' Washington Nationals.

OK, general manager Mike Rizzo admits they probably won't get him. But the fact the Nationals are even talking to Lee's agent signals a shift at these baseball winter meetings. As in, this session isn't just for the Yankees, Red Sox and baseball's other big spenders.

The Arizona Diamondbacks kept busy yesterday, giving free-agent reliever J.J. Putz a $10-million US, two-year deal. Colorado filled a need by getting 2010 all-star infielder Ty Wigginton and Pittsburgh reached a two-year contract with pitcher Kevin Correia.

Carl Crawford and Lee still topped the free-agent market. Hideki Matsui also was in play and Oakland was interested. Former AL Cy Young Award winner Zack Greinke was said to be available for any team willing to meet Kansas City's steep price.

"It's kind of like the offseason becomes fantasy baseball for players, too," Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "You always look at who is out there and who might be in your lineup. I think we all did it when we played the game. You'd say, 'Man, if we had this guy or this guy, we could be better.'"

Two days after the Nationals gave free agent Jayson Werth a $126-million, seven-year contract, they nosed around Lee. Rizzo said he had talked to the ace lefty's agent, but told Washington-area reporters, "I still think we're a real long shot to acquire the player."

The Rockies and Wigginton reached agreement on a two-year contract worth $8 million, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOEL AUERBACH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sidney Crosby checks Florida's Marty Reasoner during recent NHL action.

On a whole other level

Sidney Crosby may be the best hockey player in the world right now, and tonight the Maple Leafs have to figure out how to deal with him

He has 24 goals and 24 assists in 29 games. He is on a 16-game points streak. And he has led his team to a 10-game winning streak. He has done so with Pittsburgh's second- and third-best forwards — Jordan Staal and Evgeni Malkin — missing due to injury.

He is Sidney Crosby, and he will cause a headache for the Maple Leafs tonight.

"He's getting points like it's nothing," said Leafs defenceman Luke Schenn, who is sure to get his share of ice time against No. 87. "It's pretty unbelievable what he's doing now. Every team goes into a game with a plan on how to stop Crosby. He plays against the top players, the top lines, the top defencemen every night and he still finds a way to do it. He just keeps continuing to produce."

132

Crosby is on target for about 66 goals and 132 points. Some believe if he keeps closer to the rate of his current points streak — 18 goals and 15 assists in 16 games — he could reach 80 goals and 160 points this season.

As far as the Leafs are concerned, Crosby is the best hockey player in the world right now. He's able to make amazing plays look routine.

Take his set-up to Chris Kunitz Monday night against the New Jersey Devils. He took a long feed from Kris Letang at full speed at the Devils blueline. The puck was behind him, he tapped it up from his skate to his stick — again, at full speed — and directed the puck cross-ice to Kunitz.

"You work on those skills a lot and you never know when you're going to use them, but when they work, it's nice," Crosby said. "Sometimes that practice pays off."

Crosby often leaves his own coach nearly speechless.

"It's pretty amazing when you've got guys on our bench who look at each other and shake their heads and say: 'Did you see that?'" said Penguins coach Dan Bylsma. "It was an amazing full-speed play that he made look easy, and if you ever put on skates, you know it's not.

"He's making a lot of special plays it seems every night," Bylsma added.

"The unique thing about this now is the consistency with which he's doing it. We've seen him do special things a lot."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

4 sports

Quoted

"To hear the organization telling me to go shopping and I just told you I wasn't going to, oh yeah, if I'm going to be honest with you, I was angry about it."

YANKEES SHORTSTOP DEREK JETER, ON HIS REACTION TO YANKEES GM BRIAN CASHMAN SAYING HE SHOULD EXPLORE OTHER OPTIONS IF HE WAS DISSATISFIED WITH NEW YORK'S OFFER. JETER AND THE YANKEES FINALIZED A $51-MILLION US, THREE-YEAR CONTRACT YESTERDAY.

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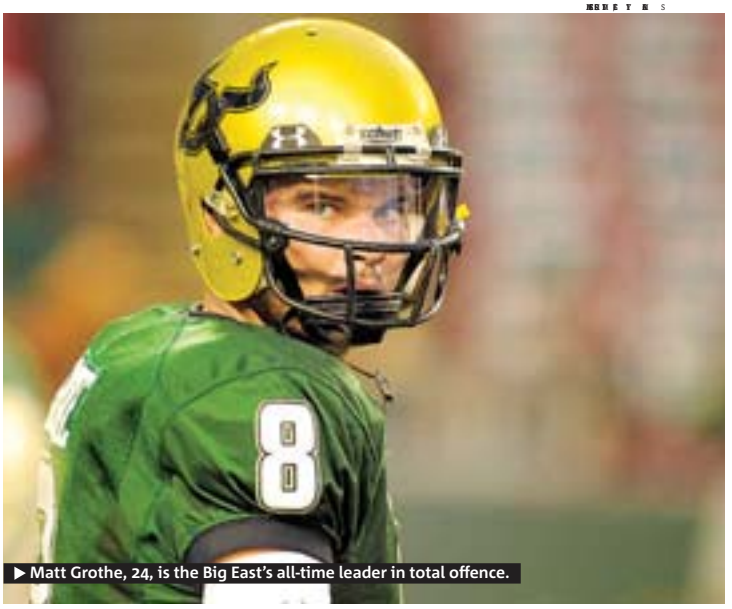
SPORTS



▶ Matt Grothe, 24, is the Big East's all-time leader in total offence.

Argonauts' QB merry-go-round keeps turning

Club adds former South Florida University star
Says there will be open competition for starting QB

The Toronto Argonauts latest quarterback comes with a pretty impressive endorsement.

After all, when Canadian Football League legend Doug Flutie says Matt Grothe has a pretty good chance of succeeding here, people tend to sit up and take notice.

The Argos announced yesterday that they have added five players to their 2011 roster. Among them is the former South Florida University star, who spent October on the team's practice roster.

Grothe showed enough in his month here to impress the Argos, who have already said there will be an open competition for the starting quarterback job next spring.

Bring 'em back

In addition to Grothe, the Argos are bringing back two other late-season import additions to the practice squad: Wide receiver **D.J. Boldin**, younger brother of Baltimore Ravens star receiver Anquan Boldin; and offensive lineman **Andre Barbour.**

"What he brings to the table is that he's very much a game-time player," said Argo offensive co-ordinator Jaime Elizondo, who first saw Grothe's talents when he was coaching at Syracuse University.

"When you look at his size, he's not a big quarterback. He doesn't jump out at you.

"But what he does is that he makes plays. He makes plays with his feet, with his arm."

Sounds a bit like Flutie, who befriended Grothe after an impressive performance against Rutgers a few years ago.

"He's a friend, a guy who I rely on for advice," Grothe said yesterday after a day of supply teaching in Lakeland, Fla. "He's told me I've got a good chance of playing here.

"He told me he thought I had a lot in common with him in the way I play and he said if I worked hard, I could have some success up here.

"It's in my hands. I'm looking forward to getting out there and busting my butt." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Opinion

ADAM PROTEAU
THE HOCKEY NEWS

WHY KEEP ORR IN LEAFS LINEUP?

The Maple Leafs' roller-coaster season swung upwards again after Monday's stirring, come-from-behind win over the powerful Washington Capitals.

Few expect something similar to occur when Toronto takes on Pittsburgh tonight — however, at least Leafs Nation had something positive to take away from a tough schedule stretch (that also includes tilts tomorrow against Philadelphia and Saturday versus Montreal).

But the next time the Leafs struggle, I'll be looking to see whether team brass employs a tactic it has yet to utilize this year: Making enforcer Colton Orr a healthy scratch.

I know, I know, you're reading this and thinking even the mere suggestion of sitting out Orr sounds like crazy talk. After all, this is someone who averages a whopping 5:02 of ice time per game; who has just two goals and as many points in 26 games; and who attempted to set a new NHL record for roughing minors when he was assessed three in one shift against Buffalo last month.

What team could do without that kind of all-around contributor?

Well, lots, as a matter of fact. Even the New York Rangers — the laughingstock of the league last summer when they signed goon Derek Boogaard to a massive free-agent contract — have had enough sense to make Boogaard a healthy scratch four times this season.

Yet Orr continues to occupy a spot on Toronto's bench, never paying the price the way John Mitchell or Brett Lebda have this season.

"But wait!" you say. "If Orr isn't playing, who will protect our star players from another team's enforcer?"

Well, lots of players, as a matter of fact. Blue-liners Mike Komisarek, Luke Schenn and Francois Beauchemin all have been willing to fight in the past, as has winger Mike Brown.

If Toronto truly is as truculent as GM Brian Burke claims, one player shouldn't be depended on to provide toughness. I'd rather see Luca Caputi learning the NHL game, or increased ice time for their young players, than watch Orr out there each night.

His contributions simply don't warrant his perpetual presence in the lineup.

Soccer. Champions League

▶ FC Copenhagen goalkeeper Johan Wiland makes a save yesterday.

LARS POULSEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen advances to knockout stage

FC Copenhagen clinched second spot in Group D by beating Panathinaikos 3-1 yesterday, becoming the first Danish team to advance to the knockout stage of the Champions League. Martin Vingaard gave Copenhagen a 1-0 lead in the 26th minute and Jesper Gronkjaer doubled the advantage from the penalty spot in the 50th.

Sports in brief

Tracy released from hospital

MLB. The Colorado Rockies said manager Jim Tracy was released from hospital after mild arrhythmia caused him to collapse at the baseball winter meetings.

Tracy was headed back to his home near Bradenton, Fla., yesterday afternoon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Goalie guilty of kidnapping

SOCCER. The captain of the Flamengo team that won the Brazilian championship in 2009 has been found guilty of kidnapping his former lover and trying to force her to abort the child she claimed he had fathered, officials said yesterday.

Bruno Fernandes — known in the soccer world just as Bruno — still faces separate charges of killing the woman, Eliza Samudio. The 25-year-old model disappeared in June 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McDonald out indefinitely

NHL. St. Louis Blues centre Andy McDonald has a concussion and will be sidelined indefinitely.

The 33-year-old McDonald was hurt during the Blues' 2-1 overtime loss Saturday in Edmonton.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	29	19	8	2	0	91	67	40	9-5-1-0	10-3-1-0	10-0-0-0	W10
d-Washington	29	18	8	1	2	96	79	39	12-2-0-2	6-6-1-0	4-4-0-2	L3
d-Montreal	28	18	8	2	0	75	54	38	11-4-2-0	7-4-0-0	6-3-1-0	W3
Philadelphia	28	17	7	2	2	95	69	38	10-5-0-1	7-2-2-1	5-3-0-2	W2
Tampa Bay	27	15	9	2	1	84	94	33	7-2-1-1	8-7-1-0	7-2-0-1	W1
Boston	26	15	8	0	3	75	52	33	6-5-0-2	9-3-0-1	5-3-0-2	W1
Atlanta	28	15	10	1	2	88	80	33	9-5-0-1	6-5-1-1	8-2-0-0	W2
NY Rangers	29	16	12	1	0	83	77	33	6-8-1-0	10-4-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Buffalo	28	11	13	4	0	70	76	26	5-8-1-0	6-5-3-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Ottawa	29	12	15	1	1	62	85	26	7-7-0-1	5-8-1-0	3-6-0-1	L1
Carolina	26	11	12	0	3	75	84	25	6-5-0-1	5-7-0-2	3-4-0-3	L1
Toronto	26	10	12	2	2	59	76	24	7-5-2-1	3-7-0-1	5-4-1-0	W2
Florida	27	12	15	0	0	70	73	24	6-5-0-0	6-10 0-0	3-7-0-0	L1
New Jersey	27	8	17	1	1	50	81	18	4-6-1-1	4-11-0-0	3-7-0-0	L3
NY Islanders	25	5	15	3	2	53	83	15	3-6-1-1	2-9-2-1	1-6-2-1	L3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	25	17	5	2	1	86	67	37	10-2-1-1	7-3-1-0	6-2-2-0	L2
d-Dallas	26	16	8	0	2	76	69	34	10-3-0-1	6-5-0-1	7-1-0-2	L1
d-Vancouver	25	14	8	1	2	80	64	31	8-3-0-1	6-5-1-1	5-4-1-0	L1
Phoenix	26	13	7	4	2	74	72	32	5-3-2-2	8-4-2-0	7-2-0-1	W1
Chicago	29	15	12	1	1	90	84	32	7-8-0-0	8-4-1-1	7-3-0-0	W1
Columbus	26	15	10	0	1	70	71	31	7-7-0-1	8-3-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Los Angeles	25	15	10	0	0	69	61	30	10-2-0-0	5-8-0-0	3-7-0-0	W2
San Jose	26	13	9	4	0	78	73	30	7-4-2-0	6-5-2-0	4-4-2-0	W1
St. Louis	26	13	9	2	2	67	72	30	8-2-0-1	5-7-2-1	4-5-1-0	W1
Nashville	26	12	8	4	2	65	68	30	5-1-3-2	7-7-1-0	5-2-1-2	L1
Colorado	27	13	10	4	0	94	86	30	7-4-1-0	6-6-3-0	4-3-3-0	L4
Anaheim	29	13	13	2	1	71	87	29	9-6-0-1	4-7-2-0	3-6-1-0	L2
Minnesota	26	11	11	1	3	63	76	26	7-6-0-2	4-5-1-1	3-5-1-1	L5
Calgary	28	12	14	1	1	78	84	26	7-6-0-0	5-8-1-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Edmonton	26	10	12	1	3	70	93	24	4-6-0-1	6-6-1-2	6-3-0-1	W4

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Montreal 4 Ottawa 1
Florida 4 Colorado 3 (OT)
Boston 3 Buffalo 2 (OT)
Calgary 4 Tampa Bay 2
Anaheim at Edmonton
Monday's results
Toronto 5 Washington 4 (SO)
Atlanta 3 Nashville 2 (OT)
Columbus 3 Dallas 2 (SO)
Pittsburgh 2 New Jersey 1
San Jose 5 Detroit 2
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
San Jose at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

FLAMES 4, LIGHTNING 2

First Period
1. Calgary, Sarich 1 (Pardy, Morrison) 7:21
2. Calgary, Kotsopolous 2 (Bourque, Giordano) 13:46
Penalties — Clark TB (tripping) 0:56.
Second Period
3. Calgary, Bourque 12 (Glencross, Backlund) 4:43
4. Tampa Bay, Harju 1 (Kubina, Jones) 8:45
5. Tampa Bay, Malone 8 (Thompson, Hedman) 19:00
Penalties — Bouwmeester Cal (interference) 9:47, Kubina TB (tripping) 16:18.
Third Period
6. Calgary, Iginla 12 (Bouwmeester, Bourque) 8:42 (pp)
Penalties — Regehr Cal (interference) 0:49, Thompson TB (interference) 6:39, Hall TB (high-sticking) 8:29.
Shots on goal by

Tampa Bay	10	7	7	—24
Calgary	7	6	6	—19

Goal — Tampa Bay: Ellis (L,7-5-3); Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,10-13-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Tampa Bay: 0-2; Calgary: 1-4.
Referees — Tom Kowal, Tim Peel. **Linesmen** — Mike Cvik, Don Henderson.
Attendance — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

CANADIENS 4, SENATORS 1

First Period
1. Montreal, Cammalleri 9, 9:09 (pp)
2. Ottawa, Foligno 2 (Spezza, Karlsson) 19:51 (pp)
Penalties — Carkner Ott (holding) 8:43, Gorges Mtl (interference) 19:30.
Second Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Kelly Ott (boarding major, game misconduct) 8:46, Fisher Ott (double high-sticking) 17:38, Picard Mtl (tripping) 19:37.
Third Period
3. Montreal, Halpern 6 (Lapierre) 2:18
4. Montreal Gionta 9, 10:01
5. Montreal, Hamrlik 3 (Gionta, Eller) 16:28
Penalties — Carkner Ott (holding) 11:29, Campoli Ott, Plekanec Mtl (roughing) 15:38, Neil Ott (slashing), Moen Mtl (roughing, misconduct) 18:46.
Shots

Ottawa	6	13	9—28
Montreal	13	9	13—35

Goal (shots-saves) — Ottawa: Leclaire (L,2-7-1)(start, 18:06 third)(33-30), Elliot (15:38 third)(2-1); Montreal: Price (W,17-7-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 1-1. Montreal: 1-5.
Referees — Greg Kimmerly, Dan O'Halloran.
Linesmen — Scott Driscoll, Jean Morin.
Att. — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	24	24	48
Stamkos, TB	21	19	40
Ovechkin, Wash	12	23	35
St. Louis, TB	11	23	34
Semin, Wash	18	15	33
Backstrom, Wash	11	21	32
D.Sedin, Vcr	14	17	31
B.Richards, Dal	12	19	31
Hejduk, Col	10	20	30
H.Sedin, Vcr	3	27	30
Sharp, Chi	16	13	29
Byfuglien, Atl	10	19	29
Datsyuk, Det	8	21	29
Heatley, SJ	13	15	28
Perry, Ana	12	16	28
E.Staal, Car	12	16	28
Ladd, Atl	10	18	28
M.Richards, Pha	10	18	28
P.Kane, Chi	11	16	27
Getzlaf, Ana	8	19	27
Roy, Buf	9	17	26

Not including last night's games

SOCCER

EUROPE

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FIRST ROUND
Top two teams in each group advance Third-place teams advance to Europa League
Group A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Tottenham	6	3	2	1	18	11	11
x-Inter Milan	6	3	1	2	12	11	10
Twente	6	1	3	2	9	11	6
Werder Bremen	6	1	2	3	6	12	5

x — clinched berth in second round.
Yesterday's results
Twente 3 Tottenham 3
Werder Bremen 3 Inter Milan 0
Group B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Schalke	6	4	1	1	10	3	13
x-Lyon	6	3	1	2	11	10	10
Benfica	6	2	0	4	7	12	6
Hapoel Tel Aviv	6	1	2	3	7	10	5

x — clinched berth in second round.
Yesterday's results
Benfica 1 Schalke 2
Lyon 2 Hapoel Tel-Aviv 2
Group C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Manchester Utd	6	4	2	0	7	1	14
x-Valencia	6	3	2	1	15	4	11
Glasgow Rangers	6	1	3	2	3	6	6
Buraspor	6	0	1	5	2	16	1

x — clinched berth in second round.
Yesterday's results
Bursaspor 1 Glasgow Rangers 1
Manchester United 1 Valencia 1
Group D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Barcelona	6	4	2	0	14	3	14
x-Copenhagen	6	3	1	2	7	5	10
Rubin Kazan	6	1	3	2	2	4	6
Panathinaikos	6	0	2	4	2	13	2

x — clinched berth in second round.
Yesterday's results
Barcelona 2 Rubin Kazan 0
Copenhagen 3 Panathinaikos 1
Group E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Bayern Munich	5	4	0	1	13	6	12
AS Roma	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
Basel	5	2	0	3	8	8	6
Cluj	5	1	0	4	5	11	3

x — clinched berth in second round.
Today's games
Bayern Munich vs. Basel, 2:45 p.m.
Cluj vs. AS Roma, 2:45 p.m.
Group F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Chelsea	5	5	0	0	14	3	15
x-Marseille	5	3	0	2	11	3	9
Spartak Moscow	5	2	0	3	5	9	6
Zilina	5	0	0	5	2	17	0

x — clinched berth in second round.
Today's games
Marseille vs. Chelsea, 2:45 p.m.
Zilina vs. Spartak Moscow, 2:45 p.m.
Group G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Real Madrid	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
x-AC Milan	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Ajax	5	1	1	3	4	10	4
Auxerre	5	1	0	4	3	8	3

x — clinched berth in second round.
Today's games
AC Milan vs. Ajax, 2:45 p.m.
Real Madrid vs. Auxerre, 2:45 p.m.
Group H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Shakhtar Donetsk	5	4	0	1	10	6	12
Arsenal	5	3	0	2	15	6	9
Braga	5	3	0	2	5	9	9
Partizan Belgrade	5	0	0	5	1	10	0

Today's games
Arsenal vs. Partizan Belgrade, 2:45 p.m.
Shakhtar Donetsk vs. Braga, 2:45 p.m.
End of First Round

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	16	4	.800	—
New York	13	9	.591	4
Toronto	8	13	.381	8½
Philadelphia	7	14	.333	9½
New Jersey	6	16	.273	11
SOUTHEAST DIVISION				
Orlando	15	6	.714	—
Atlanta	15	8	.652	1
Miami	14	8	.636	1½
Charlotte	8	13	.381	7
Washington	6	13	.316	8
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago	11	8	.579	—
Indiana	10	9	.526	1
Milwaukee	7	13	.350	4½
Cleveland	7	14	.333	5
Detroit	7	15	.318	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	17	3	.850	—
Dallas	17	4	.810	½
New Orleans	13	7	.650	4
Houston	8	13	.381	9½
Memphis	8	14	.364	10
NORTHWEST DIVISION				
Utah	16	6	.727	—
Denver	13	7	.650	2
Oklahoma City	14	8	.636	2
Portland	9	11	.450	6
Minnesota	5	16	.238	10½
PACIFIC DIVISION				
L.A. Lakers	14	6	.700	—
Phoenix	11	9	.550	3
Golden State	8	13	.381	6½
L.A. Clippers	5	17	.227	10
Sacramento	4	15	.211	9½

Last night's results7
Atlanta 116 New Jersey 101
Charlotte 100 Denver 98
Philadelphia 117 Cleveland 97
Dallas 105 Golden State 100
Houston 97 Detroit 83
Phoenix at Portland
Washington at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Indiana 124 Toronto 100
Atlanta 80 Orlando 74
New York 121 Minnesota 114
Chicago 99 Oklahoma City 90
Miami 88 Milwaukee 78
Utah 94 Memphis 85
L.A. Clippers 98 Sacramento 91
Tonight's games
Denver at Boston, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Toronto at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Golden State at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Miami at Utah, 9 p.m.
Washington at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

LEAGUE LEADERS
SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	18	157	155	494	27.4
Bryant, LAL	20	180	142	529	26.5
Stoudemire, NYK	22	206	139	556	25.3
Ellis, GOL	20	194	87	503	25.2
Nowitzki, DAL	20	192	100	498	24.9
Rose, CHI	18	172	78	448	24.9
Gordon, LAC	20	156	149	486	24.3
James, MIA	22	172	156	522	23.7
Westbrook, OKC	22	172	171	521	23.7
Anthony, DEN	19	149	121	433	22.8
Martin, HOU	20	127	151	449	22.5
Williams, UTA	22	162	123	480	21.8
Beasley, MIN	19	166	65	414	21.8
Wade, MIA	21	158	128	456	21.7
Gay, MEM	22	184	75	474	21.5
Granger, IND	19	144	72	406	21.4
Richardson, PHX	20	161	43	424	21.2
Curry, GOL	18	141	68	381	21.2

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
L.A. ANGELS — Named Keith Johnson manager of Salt Lake (PCL), Bill Mosiello manager of Arkansas (TL), Tom Gamboa manager and Damon Mashore hitting coach of Inland Empire (Cal), Brenton Del Chiaro manager and Trevor Wilson pitching coach of Cedar Rapids (MWL), Jim Gott pitching coach of the Angels (Arizona), Nathan Haynes hitting coach of Orem (Pioneer), Bobby Mitchell roving outfield, baserunning and bunting coordinator, Orlando Mercado roving catching coordinator and Jeff Pickler roving infield coach.
N.Y. YANKEES — Agreed to terms with SS Derek Jeter on a three-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
N.Y. METS — Named Leigh J. Castergine vice president, ticket sales and services.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with RHP Kevin Correia on a two-year contract. and LHP Scott Olsen on a one-year contract.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
EL PASO DIABLOS — Signed RHP Mike Cervera.

CAN-AM LEAGUE
WORCESTER TORNADOES — Released INF Christian Acosta and OF Stantrel Smith.

BASKETBALL

NBA
NEW JERSEY NETS — Recalled G-F Terrence Williams from Springfield (NBADL).

FOOTBALL

NFL
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed QB Max Hall on injured reserve. Signed QB Richard Bartel.
BUFFALO BILLS — Placed G Kraig Urbik on injured reserve. Signed G Chad Rinehart from the practice squad. Signed C Sean Allen to the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed P Jeremy Kapinos.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Re-signed C Donovan Raiola.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Suspended DL Albert Haynesworth for the remainder of the regular season for "conduct detrimental to the club."

GOLF
PGA Tour — Named Andy Pazder executive vice president and chief of operations.

HOCKEY

NHL
DALLAS STARS — Assigned LW Francis Wathier to Texas (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned G Mike McKenna to Albany (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES — Recalled D Oliver Ekman-Larsson from San Antonio (AHL).
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Re-assigned C Joel Perrault to Manitoba (AHL). Recalled LW Jonas Andersson from Manitoba.

ECHL
VICTORIA SALMON KINGS — Traded G Daren Machesney to Elmira for G Zane Kalemba and future considerations.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	2	0	.833	379	269
N.Y. Jets	9	3	0	.750	267	232
Miami	6	6	0	.500	215	238
Buffalo	2	10	0	.167	243	333
SOUTH						
Jacksonville	7	5	0	.583	257	300
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	317	290
Houston	5	7	0	.417	288	321
Tennessee	5	7	0	.417	263	235
NORTH						
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	267	191
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	260	201
Cleveland	5	7	0	.417	229	239
Cincinnati	2	10	0	.167	255	322
WEST						
Kansas City	8	4	0	.667	295	237
Oakland	6	6	0	.500	283	269
San Diego	6	6	0	.500	323	253
Denver	3	9	0	.250	256	333

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	308	247
Philadelphia	8	4	0	.667	344	281
Washington	5	7	0	.417	222	293
Dallas	4	8	0	.333	294	336
SOUTH						
Atlanta	10	2	0	.833	304	233
New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	299	227
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	243	251
Carolina	1	11	0	.083	154	307
NORTH						
Chicago	9	3	0	.750	246	192
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	303	182
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	227	253
Detroit	2	10	0	.167	278	306
WEST						
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	240	289
St. Louis	6	6	0	.500	232	237
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	203	259
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	200	338

WEEK 13
Monday's result
New England 45 N.Y. Jets 3

WEEK 14
Tomorrow's game
(All times Eastern)
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at New Orleans, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Denver at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
New England at Chicago, 4:15 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 13
Baltimore at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA
All Times Eastern
Saturday, Dec. 18

NEW MEXICO BOWL
At Albuquerque, N.M.
Texas-El Paso (6-6) vs. Brigham Young (6-6), 2 p.m.

HUMANITARIAN BOWL
At Boise, Idaho
Northern Illinois (10-3) vs. Fresno State (8-4), 5:30 p.m.

NEW ORLEANS BOWL
Ohio (8-4) vs. Troy (7-5), 9 p.m.

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#Lease and finance offers are based on new 2011 Honda models. Lease examples based on new 2011 Civic Sedan SE, model FA1E6BJX / 2011 Accord Sedan SE, model CP2E6BE / 2011 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3H3BEY available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £4.9% / 4.9% / 2.9% lease APR for 48 / 48 / 36 months. Monthly payment (includes freight and PDI, environmental fees and OMVIC fee) is $247.93 / $328.42/ $327.79. Down payment or equivalent trade of $2,550.00 / $2,750.00 / $3,925.00, first monthly payment and $0 / $0 / $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $16,464.22 / $21,056.00 / $17,904.75. Taxes, license, insurance and lien registration (if applicable) are extra. 96,000 / 96,000 / 72,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offer based on new 2011 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2011 Civic Sedan SE, model FA1E6BJX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $21,110.00 (includes $1,530.00 freight and PDI, environmental and OMVIC fees) financed at 0.9% APR equals $887.85 per month for 24 months. Cost of borrowing is $198.46 for a total obligation of $21,308.46. Taxes, license, insurance and lien registration (if applicable) are extra. MSRP is $26,475.00 / $28,015.00 for a new 2011 Accord Sedan SE, model CP2E6BE / 2011 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3H3BEY and includes $1,685.00 / $1,725.00 freight and PDI, environmental and OMVIC fees. License, insurance, lien registration (if applicable) and taxes are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ∑No payments for 90 days offer applies to purchase finance offers on all new 2010 and 2011 models purchased and delivered by January 3rd, 2011. Offer available only through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. Monthly payments are deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charge (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest (if any) monthly over the term of the contract. ¥$500.00 Cash Bonus offer applies only to retail customer purchase, lease or finance agreements on select new 2010 and 2011 Civic, Accord and CR-V models. Cash Bonus offer includes HST/GST where applicable. Valid only on purchase, lease or finance agreements concluded at participating Honda retailers. ◊No purchase necessary. Open to residents of Ontario (age of majority) who are the parent/legal guardian of a child 12 years of age or under. One entry per child. Contest ends December 31st, 2010 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Visit www.hondaontario.com/newspaper for full prize descriptions and contest rules. #£/∑/†/¥Offers valid from December 1st, 2010 through January 3rd, 2011 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit www.HondaOntario.com or see your Honda retailer for full details.

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With the sound of tires squealing and the aroma of freshly cooked rubber and brake linings hanging in the air, I quickly realize that no minivan will ever be driven this way. Ever.

Where is Honda's logic in setting up an impromptu parking-lot race track to drive the wheels off ... a minivan?

The point, though, is that a minivan can actually drive like a European touring sedan and not just in a straight line on gridded city streets. It's a good distinction from stereotypical minivans, especially when stereotypical minivans aren't really selling.

Minivan sales in North America peaked a few years ago before taking a dive. They have remained fairly stagnant of late, causing some automakers, notably General Motors and Ford, to abandon the category. Of those remaining, however, Toyota and Nissan appear to be taking radical styling departures in what has traditionally been a category of bread-and-butter toaster-shaped vehicles. So is Honda.

▶ There's enough room for seven people and plenty of seating variations.

The Odyssey is differentiated by an unusual hitch in the bodywork behind the sliding side doors. Honda calls it a "lightning bolt" effect that's supposed to increase third-row passenger visibility. That might be true, but from certain angles it's as if the rear third of the Odyssey's body is misaligned with the front two-thirds.

Fortunately the sharp-looking grille, the neatly tapered rear roof pillar and the more pronounced front fenders help make the Odyssey's wider (by 3.5 centimetres) stance look planted and even aggressive.

The distance between the front and rear wheels remains unaltered from the 2010 model, but overall length has been modestly increased and the ride height is a bit lower.

Significant attention has been expended in upgrading Odyssey's interior. The floor console can be removed, the second-row high-back bucket seats (or available three-person bench) can be either folded or removed and the third-row seat can be collapsed into the load floor more easily to maximize cargo room.

The Odyssey's 3.5-litre V6 is mostly a carryover piece but, as a result of numerous small improvements, it has gained more horsepower (now 248) and a touch more torque. The engine's standard variable cylinder management program seamlessly cuts out two or three of the cylinders (depending on load conditions) and helps contribute to significant fuel-economy gains.

The Odyssey drives flatter and truer than the outgoing version with much reduced body roll in the turns. Odyssey's engineers stayed with belt-driven hydraulic power steering and not electric, which generally tends to feel a bit slow to react in some driving situations.

No matter the Odyssey you pick, this minivan is bound to deliver the goods as well as a nearly unbeatable minivan driving experience that's definitely better than par for the (race) course.

The Odyssey

What you should know about the 2011 Odyssey

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive minivan
- **Engines (hp):** 3.5-litre SOHC V6 (248)
- **Transmissions:** Five-speed automatic; six-speed automatic (optional)
- **Market Position:** Thought to be dying, the once moribund minivan segment is suddenly heating up. The latest Odyssey appears to have arrived just at the right time to capture what is predicted to be an upcoming sales bump.
- **Points:** Styling on fourth-generation model is a mix of mostly good, some iffy traits; Interior an ergonomic delight, save for non-flat-folding front passenger seat; Exceptionally smooth and quiet power train; Amazing that a minivan can handle and ride this well.
- **Safety:** Front airbags; side-impact airbags; side-curtain airbags; anti-lock brakes; traction control; stability control.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 10.9/7.1 (6AT); Base price (including destination) $31,600

5 drive

By comparison

Toyota Sienna
Base price: $29,600
Updated 2011 minivan the only one to offer AWD and base four-cylinder engine.

Dodge Grand Caravan
Base price: $28,850
Chrysler needs to hustle to keep up with the newly updated minivans.

Nissan Quest
Base price: $29,000
All-new and more stylish edition set for launch in early 2011.

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THIS YEAR'S AUTOMOTIVE CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ
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▶ The Cadillac CTS-V Wagon — possibly the coolest station wagon ever built.

It's the most wonderful time of the year, or so they say. To me, Christmas has always had an aura of the "curate's egg."

In that famous Punch cartoon, a bishop and his subordinate (a curate) are having breakfast. The bishop says, "I'm afraid you've got a bad egg, Mr. Jones." The curate replies, "Oh, no my Lord, I assure you that parts of it are excellent."

We'll leave it up to you whether you embody the curate's delusionary good cheer this season, or just write the whole thing off as a bad egg.

Truth to be told, I actually look forward to one Christmas ritual — making a list. Making a list when the numbers are stacked against you actually appeals to the fatalist in me.

Anyway, here is my Christmas wish list…

Santa, could you see about getting us some longer hoses on the gas pumps? When the stations are busy, it gets really stressful when everyone must jockey for position to get a pump that matches the side of the car with the fuel filler.

Can't pumps have long enough hoses so it wouldn't matter which pump came available first? Would it kill them to give us a few more feet of rubber hose?

Or maybe you could look into making those new electronic parking metres be a little more polite? Often times you can hardly get your credit card in because it's so tight.

Then as soon as you do, the display starts yelling at you to REMOVE YOUR CARD. If you swipe it as quickly as they seem to request, it doesn't usually work, and admonishes you with a CANNOT READ CARD. They're really grumpy.

I'm only putting one car on my list — the Cadillac CTS-V Wagon — because I don't want to look too greedy. The 566-hp $70,000-plus Cadi just might be the coolest station wagon every built.

If I can't get the Cadi, how about a new set of wheels for my old Jaguar? The wire wheels still look great, but I always had a thing for the Dunlop solid discs used by Jaguar's racing cars back in the day. Decent replica versions are just $800 a piece.

If I can't get the wheels, how about another IPod, maybe the 64GB version ($429 at the Apple Store, free shipping)? With two, I could leave one hooked up permanently to the car stereo.

If I can't get the IPod, how about a year's subscription to satellite radio (under $200)?

A case of synthetic oil wouldn't even be $75 (when it's on sale).

A $9.99 ice scrapper/brush at Canadian Tire?

You know what Santa? A lump of coal would be fine. Merry Christmas.

Reinventing ragtops

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

▶ Chevrolet Camaro

You'd think that turning a coupe like the Chevrolet Camaro into a convertible would be easy: chop off the roof, add a soft top and you're good to go.

Not so fast, says Al Oppenheiser, Camaro's Vehicle Chief Engineer. "There are limitations when you cut the top off a coupe. You need to compensate for the difference in torsion and bending of the car."

As odd as it sounds, a stiff car body provides a smooth ride, since it doesn't vibrate or wobble on rough roads. In addition to the strength in its underbody, a car's hard roof also provides rigidity, "tying" the car together at the top.

Lacking a roof, convertibles need extra support in the body to compensate. Without it, they would feel unstable and exhibit "cowl shake" when the windshield and front panels vibrate over bumps.

"We call those kinds of convertibles boulevard cruisers," Oppenheiser says. "It might look good driving around town, but I'd hate to drive it on a bumpy or twisting road. If you have a car that bends or twists, it translates into what the customer feels in the steering wheel or the seat, and it's not a very pleasing ride."

The Camaro's base architecture was designed with a convertible in mind right from the beginning, but extra components still had to be added. These include a brace across the front shock towers, a cross-brace under the transmission, a plate under the driveshaft and V-brackets front and rear. This extra bracing in the car's body offsets that lost by the missing roof.

If you've ever wondered why convertibles weigh more than their hard-topped siblings, it's because the bracing below is heavier than a roof above.

History lesson

- **In the earliest days** of the automobile, cars didn't have solid roofs. Derived from horse-drawn buggies, they were open cars, sometimes with the luxury of a folding cloth top for foul weather.
- **"Closed" cars** began appearing around 1908 and quickly became popular for their all-season ability. Convertibles continued on, but the increasing availability of air conditioning and rumoured new rollover safety standards saw many automakers discontinue convertibles in the 1970s.
- **In 1976,** the Cadillac Eldorado was the "last convertible" — until Chrysler reintroduced the ragtop in 1982, and they've been around ever since.

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scion

what moves you

Auto makers pedal bicycles

AUTO KNOW

DAVID HARRIS
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They're mobile, exclusive and serve as rolling platforms for product awareness and brand extension. They're also widely regarded as promoting healthy living by building cardiovascular fitness.

It's well known that brand enthusiasts often go out of their way to let the world know of their particular passions, and a bicycle by its mobile nature can deliver that message in spades.

Car-company bicycles range from road and racing designs to off-road mountain bikes and even folding models that take up little space in the trunk or back seat, serving as extended personal mobility devices once a destination has been reached by a vehicle.

At least one company, Mercedes-Benz, will offer through its Smart division a hybrid/electric bicycle with assistance from onboard motors powered by rechargeable batteries.

Mercedes-Benz, in fact, offers a wide range of bikes — "the proverbial something for everyone," says spokesman Arden Nerling — including kid-size conveyances.

Perhaps most unique is the collapsible model, which at about $3,000 US, and without requiring the use of tools, folds in seconds to 79 by 79 by 28 centimetres and fits into its own transport bag.

Mercedes' Smart division announced at the recent Paris Motor Show a sophisticated pedal-powered prototype bicycle with electric assist, named Ebike, that employs regenerative braking technology and smartphone integration.

There's even a Global-satellite Positioning System (GPS) tracking function to help users locate a parked Ebike. As an anti-theft measure, removing the smartphone locks the drive.

Coming soon from Porsche is its recently announced Hybrid RS mountain bike. After the Cayenne S Hybrid sport utility vehicle, the 911 GT3 R Hybrid racing car and the concept 918 Spyder supercar, the Hybrid RS bicycle is the fourth concept from Porsche this year to demonstrate new drive technology.

Weighing about 16 kilograms, it achieves a range of more than 50-plus kilometres per charge. It has a lightweight carbon frame and high-quality components including disc brakes, a leading-edge transmission system and an Apple iPhone offering Web-assisted navigation.

▶ Porsche's electric-assist pedal bike

▶ Mercedes-Benz's foldable bike

▶ Jeep's two-wheel model

▶ Lexus' hybrid bike

Peter goes Pop

Kia's design director Peter Schreyer talks about the Pop electric city car and his thoughts on how EVs will change car design.

SUBMITTED

▶ Kia's design director, Peter Schreyer, with the Pop electric car.

Why did you decide to create a small electric concept for the Paris Motor Show?
There was the idea to do a small electric car as Paris is a big city. We got a lot of inspiration from outside the car industry, like the furniture field. We had two proposals. One would have been great if we had wanted a production model. But we took the one that was really special. Everybody loved it. This is why we made it this way — if it's a car that you smile at and that smiles back at you, it's almost like a pet.

Do electric vehicles give car designers more freedom?
No matter what engine a car has we have to obey certain regulations, human measurements, technical constraints and costings, so in some ways electric cars have to follow the same rules as conventional cars. But it allows more freedom. I wouldn't mimic the outline of a conventional car if I had other possibilities. If I did not need an engine compartment I wouldn't make a long hood, because I wouldn't need it. If it's an electric car it should express that but it should also express what it is. It's not just about being different and saying, "Excuse me, I'm an electric car."

The Soul has a fun interior. Are interiors important to you?
Yes, for a big proportion of my career I have worked on interiors. I look at the car as a whole; the interior and the exterior need to fit together. You buy the car because you see it in the shop but you live in the interior. It's very important that a car suits you; it needs to fit like a glove. Expectations have changed. Nowadays you can't just put cheap materials in smaller and cheaper cars.

Did you expect the Audi TT to become a design classic?
You can't predict something like this, it would be presumptuous. But we knew it was something special. It has a long-lasting character and it still stands out a lot from the rest.

Do you expect to create an equally radical car at Kia?
We have a lot of freedom at Kia. I think that's why I was hired — they wanted to make a big step in design and to make a big step you need some sort of freedom. The Pop is very special; it will probably influence future product at some point. This is a difficult question to answer. It doesn't help if you have something radical if nobody buys it.

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From boosting your pony to new iPad apps

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There are plenty of air-intake systems available for modern vehicles that claim to improve airflow. But for older vehicles or extreme performance applications, it's doubtful that such a system exists.

Rather than ordering up a whole mess of metal elbows and trying to weld something together, Airaid offers its six-inch-diameter UBI (U-Build-It) intake tube that includes bends and straight sections just waiting to be cut apart and made into an intake system that actually fits your vehicle and provides the necessary airflow, for $180 US. Find out more at airaid.com.

A ROPE THAT WON'T ROT

Off-roading is a test of man and four-wheel-drive machine against Mother Nature — and we know who usually wins those contests, which is why BubbaRope was created.

The company sells four strengths of rot-resistance rope, ending with the mighty Jumbo Bubba (pictured) at 3.8 centimetres in diameter, with a 33,600 kilogram breaking strength. That means about 20 Jeep Wranglers could hang from it at once. At the other end of the spectrum is L'il Bubba, a six-metre long rope with a breaking strength of 3,360 kilograms.

Prices range from $59 to $325 US at bubbarope.com, where you can also pick up the connecting hardware. If it seems a little steep for a rope, it's a lot better than leaving your vehicle behind for Mother Nature to finish off.

APPLE IPAD AS A GAUGE?

Apple's iPad has a number of uses beyond reading books and magazines.

The DashCommand interface by Palmer Performance Engineering turns your iPad (or iPhone) into a high-resolution display to keep tabs on how your vehicle is performing. Available from the Apple App Store for $50 US (plus some fairly inexpensive hardware from Palmer), Dash Command taps into the iPad's built-in GPS and accelerometer functions to provide motion-based activity readouts.

These include skid-pad, horsepower and torque readings, as well as fuel consumption

One of the neatest functions is Race Track, which superimposes your lap trajectory overtop background satellite imagery. For more, go to palmer-performance.com.

A BOOST FOR YOUR PONY

You might know about the so-called Pony Car Wars, that 40-year-old rivalry between Ford Mustang, Chevrolet Camaro and Dodge Challenger.

That battle has spilled over to the aftermarket as Edelbrock plays all three sides of the coin with its E-Force supercharger package.

The E-Force uses a belt-driven Eaton-brand four-lobe supercharger that's a direct bolt-on to your ride. Edelbrock claims one of the highest outputs with low boost levels (about five pounds per square inch in the case of the 4.6-litre Ford application). For more info, visit edelbrock.com.

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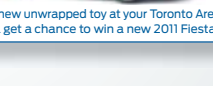

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Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. *Receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2011 Ford Edge (excluding SE), Flex (excluding SE), Escape (excluding I4 manual) / Focus (excluding S), Taurus (excluding SE), Flex (excluding SE), Escape (excluding I4 manual) / Focus (excluding S), Taurus (excluding SE), Fusion (excluding SE) / Fusion (excluding S), Mustang (excluding 2011 S), Ranger (excluding 2011 XL), Explorer (excluding 2011 SE), Explorer Sport Trac, Expedition, Super Duty, E-Series, F-150 and 2011 Transit Connect models for a maximum of 72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (O.A.C.) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify. Down payment may be required based on approved credit. Cost of borrowing is $0 for 72/72/72 months with a down payment of $0/$0/$0 or equivalent trade-in. Down payment may be required based on approved credit. Cost of borrowing is $128/$125/$173 for 72/72/72 months with a down payment of $0/$0/$0 or equivalent trade-in. Down payment may be required based on approved credit. Cost of borrowing is $1,689/$0/$2,309/$2,511 or APR of 2.99%/0%/2.99%/2.99% and total to be repaid is $9,968/$9,500/$12,988/$13,640. All offers include Freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. Bi-Weekly payments are only available using a customer initiated PC (Internet Banking) or Phone Pay system through the customer's own bank (if offered by that financial institution). The customer is required to sign a monthly payment contract and furnish a cheque in the amount of the first bi-weekly payment on the contract date. Subsequent bi-weekly payments will be made via a PC or Phone Pay system commencing 2 weeks following the contract date. ▼ Program in effect from Oct. 1/10, to Jan. 3/11 (the "Program Period"). To qualify for a Ford Recycle Your Ride Program ("RYR") rebate ("Rebate(s)"), customer must qualify for and take part in either the "Retire Your Ride Program" delivered by Summerhill Impact with financial support from the Government of Canada, or Summerhill Impact's "Car Heaven Program." To qualify for the "Retire Your Ride Program", which offers $300 cash or rebate on the purchase of a 2004 or newer vehicle, customer must turn in a 1995 model year or older vehicle in running condition (able to start and move) which has been properly registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.) to an authorized recycler. To qualify for the "Car Heaven Program", customer must turn in a 2003 model year or older vehicle in running condition which has been registered and insured for the last 6 months to an authorized recycler. If a customer qualifies for Car Heaven or Retire Your Ride, Ford of Canada ("Ford") will provide an additional Rebate, with the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2010/2011 Ford or Lincoln vehicle, in the amount of $1,000 CDN (Focus (excluding 2011 S), Fusion (excluding 2011 S), Mustang (excluding Shelby GT500 and 2011 Value Leader), Transit Connect, Ranger (excluding 2011 XL), $2,000 CDN (Taurus (excluding 2011 SE), Escape (excluding 2011 SE), Flex (excluding 2011 SE), Explorer (excluding 2011 SE), Explorer Sport Trac), or $3,000 CDN (F-150 (excluding Raptor and 2011 Regular Cab XL and 4x2), F-250-550, E-Series, Expedition, Mk2, MKS, MKT, Navigator) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Rebate amount may be used as a down payment. Taxes payable before Rebate amount is deducted. RYR Rebates are available to retail customers in Canada only (excluding Territories, Non-Territory and Nunavut). Eligible vehicles must be registered, insured for the last 6 months to an authorized recycler, then scrapped. Limit one Rebate per Eligible Vehicle. Rebate cannot be assigned to a third party. Rebate can be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle, up to a maximum of two (2), separate Eligible Vehicles per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to members domiciled with an eligible Costco member. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford at either the time of factory order (if ordered within the Costco Offer Period) or delivery, but not both. This offer can be used in conjunction with the Commercial Connection Program. For small fleets with an eligible FIN, this offer can be used in conjunction with the Small Business Incentive Program (SBIP). Offers not combinable with any GPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). Customer may use the $1,000 CDN as a down payment or choose to receive a rebate cheque from Ford, but not both. Applicable taxes calculated before $1,000 CDN offer is deducted. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ©2010 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved. ^Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2011 Ford Fiesta 1.6L I-4 Manual/Focus 2.0L I-4 Manual/Fusion FWD 2.5L I-4 Automatic. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ^^NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open only to legal residents of Ontario who have reached 18 years of age. Five (5) prizes will be awarded in Ontario consisting of one (1) new 2011 Ford Fiesta SES 5 Door Automatic with Winter Safety Package (approx. retail value of CDN$21,929 based on MSRP) and four (4) $1000 cash prize. Odds of being selected as a finalist are solely dependent on the total number of ballots received. Odds of winning the vehicle prize as a finalist are 1 in 5. Contest closes Dec. 18/10. Skill-testing question required. Prize may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for full contest rules.

Korean sedan a good family car

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

If any car had the potential to change the public's perception of the Hyundai brand in the modern era, it was the last-generation Sonata.

Available from 2006 to 2010, the Korean automaker's bread-and-butter family sedan was packed with the engineering, quality and styling needed to give the big boys from Japan a run for their money.

In the used marketplace, Sonata's Korean roots and relatively short history as a family sedan contender mean that resale values will be relatively low compared to those of Japanese competitors.

If you're looking for a good deal on a used family car, the last-generation Sonata may be a great place to start — especially considering that it seems to have fared well where reliability is concerned.

Standard was a 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine with 162 horsepower and five-speed manual transmission. A manual-mode automatic was available, as was a V6 engine.

▶ Hyundai Sonata

History/Description

Shoppers in the used market will find entry-level Sonata models labeled with a GL badge, while GL V6, GLS and GLS V6 models filled out the model range. Sonata Sport and limited models were available in later years as well.

Available features included a power glass sunroof, 17-inch wheels, stability control, automatic climate control, an Infinity CD-changer audio system, remote access and power leather seats.

What Owners Like

Owners commonly praise the vehicle's styling, roominess, massive trunk, comfort levels and overall refinement. The V6 engine is a favourite with performance buffs, who say they enjoy the available power and acceleration. Long-haul comfort is rated highly too, as is fuel mileage with the four-cylinder engine.

What Owners Hate

Complaints include interior squeaks and rattles, some low-budget interior trim pieces, the lack of lighting on certain controls at night, and premature brake wear — though the latter is largely subject to the individual driving style and locale at play.

Common Issues

Noteworthy is mixed sentiment between two comfort-related aspects of the Sonata: the seats and the ride quality. Some owners rave about comfort levels related to both, while others complain of stiff, uncomfortable seats and a noisy and harsh ride. Take a lengthy test drive to ensure you feel comfortable in the used Sonata you're considering.

The Verdict

If you're able to find a good deal on a last-generation Sonata that's well-maintained, you'll likely wind up with a reliable, enjoyable car. Best of all, you'll save a few bucks, too.

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FESTIVE SPECIAL SANDWICH
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Seasoned Turkey Breast, Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing, Romaine Lettuce, and Grilled Onions
MAKE IT A COMBO FOR ONLY A TOONIE MORE
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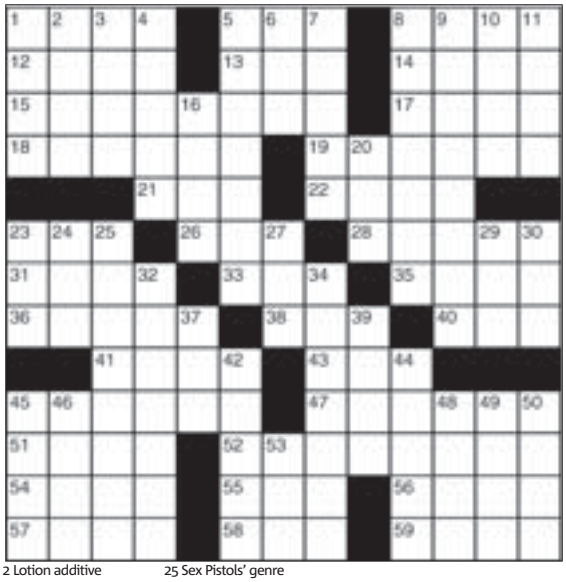
Crossword



Across

1 Leave when things get tough
5 Jewel
8 Campus lecturer, maybe
12 Radius neighbour
13 Floral garland
14 Theater box
15 Illinois city
17 Land measure
18 Try a case again
19 Where a plug goes
21 Tackle the slopes
22 Muscular development
23 Rock band's enhancer
26 Salamander
28 Follows orders
31 "Magical Mystery — "
33 Thee
35 Hodgepodge
36 King of Crete
38 Make a decision
40 CDs' forerunners
41 "South Park" kid
43 Year-end abbr.
45 Mediterranean eels
47 Gets more out of
51 "American —"
52 St. Patrick's Day emblem
54 Reference bk.
55 "— Wiedersehen"
56 Inter
57 Black
58 Still
59 Turn on a pivot

Down

1 Perry Mason portrayer
2 Lotion additive
3 About 2.54 centimeters
4 Erie and others, e.g.
5 Extol
6 Always, in verse
7 Central portion
8 Ersatz pill
9 "Saturday Evening Post" artist
10 Shrek, for one
11 Stocking stuffers?
16 Phony
20 Discoverer's cry
23 $ dispenser
24 Miss Piggy's pronoun
25 Sex Pistols' genre
27 Excessively
29 Shrill bark
30 "Mayday!"
32 Monarchs
34 Factor in Marilyn's "Seven Year Itch" pose
37 Crafty
39 Abound
42 English composition
44 Restrains
45 Skirt length
46 Valhalla VIP
48 Satan's purchase
49 Beige
50 Terrier type
53 Colouration

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

2	8		7		5	4		1
		6		1		2	7	
				9	8			
3		4				6		9
			2	3				
	3	5		4		7		
9		8	5		6		3	2

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

8	7	3	2	9	1	6	5	4
9	5	1	6	3	4	7	8	2
6	2	4	8	7	5	1	3	9
2	6	9	7	5	3	4	1	8
1	4	7	9	8	2	3	6	5
3	8	5	1	4	6	2	9	7
5	9	6	4	1	7	8	2	3
7	1	8	3	2	9	5	4	6
4	3	2	5	6	8	9	7	1

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

David, I love your long beautiful hair. I love the way it glisten's in the sun and falls so softly on your face. You will always be my little Avatar..hopefully one day we can put our tails together.. for eternity! — Love Always,
YOUR WORK WIFE.

Tom, thank you for every little thing you do that means everything to me. I love you with all my heart.
RUTH

Happy two year anniversary Ito. I will love you until a cow jumps over the moon. From your **TUNA :) XO.**

Dalia, I'm sorry about everything that has happened in the past, but I hope someday we can work past this. I love you always...
ALEISHA

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
There is no point trying to force other people to think or feel the way you do. That will only encourage them to dig in their heels and stick with what they already believe.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Venus, your ruler, is currently moving through your opposite sign of Scorpio – and today is linked to Pluto, planet of passion. Therefore someone is sure to stir your emotions — but don't let them stir up a storm.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Focus on the realities of your situation today. Wishful thinking may be fun but it does not pay the bills and it does not take you any closer to your goals. Have confidence in your abilities.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 It seems you can do no wrong at the moment. It seems that everything you touch works out better than anyone expected. Keep the momentum going.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 If you go too far or too fast today you will find it very hard to stop and that could lead to all sorts of complications — and accidents. By all means have fun, by all means seek adventure, but be aware of the consequences too.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Someone you meet while traveling or socializing will be a lot of fun, and there is at least an evens chance that your friendship could develop in a romantic direction.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Your taste for luxuries could get you into trouble, especially if you have other financial obligations that should come first. The bills will have to be paid some time.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Make a point of talking nicely with someone you have clashed with in the past. You have much in common.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You always go out of your way to help family and friends but today you will go even further and help someone you have no personal commitment to, simply because they need help and you are in a position to give it. You're such a nice guy.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Pluto in your sign makes a positive link to values planet Venus today, which will encourage you to pursue goals that are beneficial not just for you personally but for other people as well.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Try not to be suspicious if someone in a position of authority suddenly starts treating you like their number one buddy.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 This will be a productive day, but if you really want to accomplish something spectacular you must make a point of working with other people. Don't try to do it all on your own.
SALLY BROMPTON

MARCO UGARTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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An Important Notice Regarding Your Personal Health

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is working with Ontario's health care providers to build a system in which your health care provider will have improved access to your personal health information including your laboratory test results.

The collection, use and disclosure of your personal health information are subject to the *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)* and this notice is being issued to provide you with information to help you to decide whether or not you want to share your information. The ministry is also subject to PHIPA.

For All Ontarians

Currently, laboratories submit your test results back to the health care provider who ordered the test(s) and any other practitioner copied on a requisition form. However, there may be several other health care providers involved in your care, who would not have access to your laboratory test information. The Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS) is an electronic system that will allow hospital and community laboratories to share your lab test results with health care providers, and will be a component of the Electronic Health Record.

As of mid-December 2010, the ministry will assume custody and control of patients' laboratory test information that is submitted to and stored in OLIS. MOHLTC will then begin providing your test results to eHealth Ontario, to enable eHealth Ontario to share this information electronically with your health care providers. eHealth Ontario is the public agency that is working to deliver a secure and private electronic health care system for all Ontarians. As an agent of MOHLTC, eHealth Ontario can share this information electronically with any health care provider who delivers your health care in Ontario. MOHLTC will use and disclose your information only as permitted by law, and work to ensure that your information is secure and your privacy is respected.

Protecting Your Privacy

Your privacy is important. As a patient, you can withdraw or reinstate your consent for MOHLTC and/or health care providers who have not ordered your laboratory tests to access your laboratory test information contained in OLIS. If you choose to withdraw your consent, MOHLTC and/or health care providers who have not ordered your laboratory tests will not have access to this information through OLIS. Choosing to withdraw your consent will in no way affect your relationship with your health care provider(s), who will continue to provide care to you.

Deciding Not to Share Your Information

If you wish to withdraw or reinstate consent for MOHLTC or health care providers to access your test results submitted to OLIS, or for more information about this public notice, please call 1-800-291-1406 (TTY: 1-800-268-7095). For more information on OLIS, visit **ontario.ca/yourhealthprivacy.**

For Ontarians Living with Diabetes

There are three key tests that people living with diabetes should receive on a regular basis. They are:

- the HbA1C blood glucose control test, which patients should receive at least every six months;
- the LDL-C cholesterol test, which patients should receive every year, and
- a retinal eye exam, which patients should receive every two years.

The Diabetes Testing Report was created to keep your primary care provider (physician or nurse practitioner) informed of when you last had each of these three tests.

People living with diabetes who are tested regularly are better able to manage their diabetes and avoid complications. The Report will help you and your primary care provider better manage your diabetes care by reminding him or her if you are overdue for an HbA1C test, LDL-C test, or retinal eye exam, and it will encourage you and your primary care provider to talk about your diabetes care.

Protecting Your Privacy

In order to create the Diabetes Testing Report, your primary care provider may share personal health information, including your name, health number and date of birth, with the MOHLTC. He or she will also confirm whether you have diabetes. In response, the MOHLTC will share the most recent dates of each of the three tests with your provider. Your privacy is important, however, and you are not required to have your information included in this report.

Deciding Not to Share Your Information

You may decide that you do not want your primary care provider to disclose your information to the MOHLTC, and that you do not wish to be included in your provider's Diabetes Testing Reports. If you choose to withhold or withdraw your consent, this will in no way affect your relationship with your health care provider and he or she will continue to provide care to you.

If you wish to withhold or withdraw your consent to having your information disclosed by your primary care provider and in any Diabetes Testing Reports that MOHLTC sends to your primary care provider, call 1-800-291-1405 (TTY: 1-800-387-5559). If you withheld or withdrew your consent to have your information included on the Diabetes Testing Report in the Spring of 2010, you do not need to withhold or withdraw your consent again; if you wish to reinstate your consent, you can do so by calling the number above.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal health information for the purposes of the Diabetes Testing Report, call the numbers listed above. For more information about diabetes, visit **ontario.ca/diabetes.**

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Rio EX shown

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Soul 4u shown

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HWY: 6.3L/100KM (45 MPG) CITY: 7.7L/100KM (37 MPG)

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HWY: 6.9L/100KM (41 MPG) CITY: 10.0L/100KM (28 MPG)

HEATED FRONT SEATS

AIR CONDITIONING

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE AVAILABLE

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2011 KIA SORENTO

Sorento EX-V6 luxury shown

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ALL-IN PRICE **$21,679‡**

NOW GET UP TO **$4,100** IN CASH SAVINGS

AVAILABLE COMPETITIVE BONUS **$1,000^**

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

HWY: 7.4L/100KM (38 MPG) CITY: 10.6L/100KM (27 MPG)

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AIR CONDITIONING

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

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Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399-$699), licensing, PPSA, or applicable taxes.

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0% purchase financing available on select 2010 and 2011 Kia models for up to 84 months on approved credit (OAC). 0% purchase financing available on all 2010 and 2011 Kia Rios for up to 84 months on approved credit (OAC). Financing example based on Kia Rio (R07A5A) with cash purchase price of $18,534. 0% financing for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $0. Delivery and destination fee ($1,455) and other fees ($100 + $34) included. Admin fee, license, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. **No Payments Until Spring 2011" (120 day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on all new 2010 and 2011 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). No interest will accrue during the first 90 days of the finance contract. After this period interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract. ^Win up to $10,000 towards your purchase or lease of any new 2010/2011 Kia model. No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest closes January 3rd, 2011. Credit awards are tax-inclusive and can only be applied to the purchase or lease of new 2010 and 2011 Kia vehicles delivered out of dealer stock on or before January 3rd, 2011. All participants will receive an award consisting of a credit award in an amount varying from $500 to $10,000. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Potential award recipients must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Other restrictions may apply, please see your Kia dealer for full contest rules. ‡Cash purchase price for 2011 Sorento (SR54DB)/2011 Soul (SO15DB) is $21,679/$15,679 and includes a cash credit of $4,100/$2,000 and delivery and destination fees ($1,650/$1,650), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and Air Tax (where applicable), based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of $23,995/$15,995. ^Cash savings vary by model and trim. ‡Monthly lease payment for 2011 Sportage (SP55B) is $299 for 48 months at 3.9% lease APR with a $2,620 down payment. Total lease obligation is $16,994 with the option to purchase at end of term for $9,146. Lease has 20,000 km/year allowance (other packages available) and $0.10/km for excess. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, OMVIC fee, environmental fee and Air Tax (where applicable) included. ‡Monthly payment for 2011 Rio (R07A2B) starts at $181 for 84 months at 0% finance APR based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of $13,695. Delivery and Destination fees ($1,455), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and Air Tax (where applicable) included. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. >$1,000 competitive bonus available to current select competitive SUV owners. Please see dealer for eligibility and full details. +Highway/city fuel consumption for 2011 Sorento 2.4L MT (SR54DB) is 7.4 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG); 2011 Rio (R05A2B) is 5.8 L (49 MPG)/7.1 L (40 MPG); 2011 Soul (SO15DB) is 6.3L (45 MPG)/7.7L (37 MPG)/ 2011 Sportage (SP55B) is 6.9 L (41 MPG)/10.0 L (28 MPG). The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ^2011 Kia Sorento/2011 Kia Soul/2011 Kia Sportage awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The award is applicable on all 2011 Sorento/2011 Sportage models manufactured after March 2010. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. ^2011 Kia Sportage voted best compact SUV of the year by auto123.com. ^2011 Consumer's Digest Best Buy Award awarded to the 2011 Kia Soul and 2011 Kia Sorento. Visit www.consumersdigest.com for full details.°The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Some conditions apply to the $500 / $750, Grad Rebate Program / Kia Mobility Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Offers end January 3rd, 2011. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.